

Protest strike hits Karachi

KARACHI (AP) — Parts of Pakistan's largest city were brought to a standstill by a general strike on Sunday. At least 15 people were shot in clashes with police during protests against the imprisonment of city councillors. Hundreds of shops, businesses, schools and government offices were hit by the strike to protest the arrest last week of Mayor Abdul Sattar Afghani and 98 members of the council. Public transport came to a halt in some areas. "Thousands of people stayed away from work and school. But the strike attempt appeared in full short of its aim of imposing a complete shutdown of the city, with a population of seven million. Trains, the docks, major industries and outlying parts of the city were barely affected. Protesters clashed repeatedly with police in some of Karachi's central districts. Gangs of protesters pelted passing vehicles with rocks, set fire to tyres in the streets and blocked roads with barricades. Riot police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters. Launched baton charges and opened fire with shotguns on several occasions, according to eyewitnesses. Hospital officials, speaking on condition they not be identified further, said 15 people were hurt.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Kuwaitis lend \$150m to Soviets

KUWAIT (AP) — A consortium of nine Kuwaiti banks and financial institutions Sunday extended a \$150 million syndicated loan to the Soviet Union, setting the stage for channelling Kuwaiti investments to Eastern Europe. The agreement was signed by Abdullah Al Gabandi, chairman of the Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Co., which will manage the loan, and by Vladimir Drovoskov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank. The loan, the first made to the Soviet Union by Kuwaiti banks, heralds an era of wide-scale financial cooperation between the oil-producer and the Soviets, financial analysts said. It came on the heels of a trade agreement between the two countries. Mr. Drovoskov described Sunday's accord as "a new milestone along the path of economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Kuwait."

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King visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein visited the Prime Ministry on Sunday and met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The King passed directives to the prime minister during the meeting.

Rifai meets envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met at his office Sunday evening with Babraio's newly-appointed ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim. Later he met separately with Pakistani Ambassador Saghir Hussain Syed, Romanian Ambassador Teodor Cuman, Kuwaiti Ambassador Ibrahim Al Baho and also Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mbeilan.

Israel jails 8 Arabs

TEL AVIV (R) — Four Arabs convicted of planning to attack the Israeli defence ministry in Tel Aviv were sentenced by a military court on Sunday to prison terms of between 12 and 20 years. Four others found guilty of belonging to the Fateh wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were jailed for seven years. The eight were captured when Israeli gunboats sank a ship carrying suspected Palestinian commandos off the Israeli coast in April 1985. Twenty other men were believed drowned.

Spanish and Saudi defence chiefs meet

RIYADH (AP) — Spanish Defence Minister Marcis Serra and Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan discussed military cooperation between their two countries in an official round of talks here Sunday. Sources disclosed that among the topics raised was an offer by Madrid to supply armoured personnel carriers and armoured vehicles to the kingdom, and that Saudi Arabia would study the offer.

Irish premier assails Israel over Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald accused Israel on Sunday of hindering U.N. peace-keeping efforts in southern Lebanon. In an interview with an Israeli newspaper he said: "What worries me very much is the Israeli refusal to allow the peace-keeping force to carry out its security activities in the area under the mandate granted it."

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood quits election partnership

CAIRO (R) — The Muslim Brotherhood, which won seven seats in Egypt's parliament by running on the Wafd party ticket in 1984, said Sunday it was breaking with its election partner, the national Middle East News Agency said. The announcement was made by Seif-Allah Hassan Al Banna who said the Brotherhood would be running in April's general elections on a joint ticket with three other opposition groups. The Muslim Brotherhood circumvented a 30-year-old ban on its activities by allying itself with the right-wing Wafd, which won 57 of the 448 seats in the People's Assembly (parliament) in 1984.

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Israeli troops shoot and wound 8 Gaza protesters

7 soldiers injured in West Bank protests

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Eight Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers and seven Israeli troopers were injured in stone-throwing as protests continued in the Israeli-occupied territories for the seventh day against the siege by militiamen of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said eight Palestinians were wounded, one of them seriously, when Israeli soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Gaza City. An eyewitness quoted by AP said the clash in Gaza began when students from the Jaffa Secondary School marched down the city's main street, Omar Al Mukhtar.

He said troops stopped one protester and confiscated his identity card, and then "the crowd started screaming and pushing and the soldiers opened fire. It was like a battle." He asked not to be named.

The witness, as well as the press service, said five of the injured were admitted to Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. Two others were at the city's Shifa Hospital, and another was moved to an Israeli hospital in serious condition with abdominal wounds.

The press service identified the wounded as: Mohammad Abu Riah, 18, in serious condition; Osama Abo Rikba, 19, shot in the back and suffering moderate wounds; Mohammad Ibrahim Al Musabar, 35, shot in the arm and suffering slight wounds; Hilam Abdul Kader Badwan, 17, suffering leg wounds; Ziyad Abdul Kader Mish Hazawi, 18, shot in left leg; Walid Abed Rabi Al Khali, 17, grazed by a bullet in the head; Saleh Mohammad Saleh Al Kafah, 16, shot in left foot; and Hani Yousef Al Meziyan, 18, shot in left leg.

Palestinians also demonstrated at several towns and refugee camps in Gaza, shouting slogans in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and against the Shi'ite Amal movement which has been laying siege to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon for 80 days.

In Nablus, the largest city of the occupied West Bank, soldiers detained 15 students at the Kadri

high school after they threw stones at troops. Eyewitnesses told AP the soldiers fired tear gas to disperse the stone-throwers, but the youths wrapped the canisters in wet towels and hurled them back at the soldiers.

AP photographer Max Nash saw troops bring 15 Palestinian boys out of the school and order them to lie on the ground with their hands behind their necks. They were then loaded onto a truck and taken away. One boy who resisted was picked up by troops and thrown into the vehicle.

A television crew which disregarded orders against taking photographs was detained by soldiers but later released. Troops also fired tear-gas to disperse a demonstration in Nablus by high school girls and another by students in the town of Al Bireb, the press service and witnesses said.

At Hebron University, one of four large Palestinian universities in the West Bank, troops sealed off the road leading to the campus and shut down the school for the day following student protests there on Saturday, the press service said.

Earlier Sunday, an explosion occurred near a major Israeli hospital in what police described as an attempted car bombing.

A police spokeswoman said there were no Israeli casualties in the explosion, which occurred in a car near the Meir Hospital in the town of Kfar Saba at 6:10

a.m. Kfar Saba is about 20 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv, adjacent to the occupied West Bank.

"It was an apparent attempt at a car bombing," said spokeswoman Orit Daka. She said no further details were available.

AP said its dispatch over the incident was censored by the Israeli military censor.

Seven Israeli soldiers were injured when protesters stoned an army bus near the Kalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem, an Israeli spokesman said. Soldiers arrested several Palestinians, sources quoted by Reuter said.

In Ramallah, an army officer was hit in the face by stones, the sources said.

A tourist in Nablus was cut by glass when the windshield of a bus in which she was travelling was smashed by stones, the sources added.

None of the injuries was serious.

In Gaza, a fire bomb was thrown at an Israeli bus outside the police station but it caused no damage.

Unrest against Israel's 19-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has flared in the last few weeks among Palestinians protesting at increased harassment by Israeli troops.

Last week, 10 Palestinians were wounded by Israeli troops in anti-Israel protests at a university and refugee camp near Nablus.

Prince Hassan calls for link between education and needs of community

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday urged Jordanian educationalists to link education in the Kingdom with the actual needs of the community, and stressed the importance of deepening the young generation's sense of belonging to their country and nation.

Prince Hassan, addressing a meeting of educationalists attended by Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi and heads of departments of education in Irbid Governorate, said that education should have an objective and should serve the community's needs.

Prince Hassan conveyed to the educationalists and the teachers and other officials of the department of education in Irbid Governorate His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and his appreciation of their efforts in bringing up the young generation.

Prince Hassan said that educationalists should lend their attention to the process of developing education and proper management of the process of developing the society and its young generation.

He promised to hold similar meetings with various groups of educationalists at schools and other educational institutions.

Addressing the meeting was also Education Minister Hindawi. He outlined the educational process in the Kingdom over the years. At present, he said, one third of the population are students at school or community colleges and universities and many of the graduates have been contributing towards building other Arab countries.

Despite the great achievements realised in the field of education, a great deal remains to be done,

The responsibility of educating the young generation lies with the universities and the schools but there is need for the educationalists to help the young generation to become creative through continued developing and enlightening their minds and intellects, he said.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to the Ministry of Education for its efforts and drive to enhance the meaning of values of society and its endeavour to link education and training with the needs of the community.

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Despite the great achievements realised in the field of education, a great deal remains to be done,

and many aspirations remain to be fulfilled, the minister said.

For catching up with other nations, Jordan has to absorb and employ modern technology and the Ministry of Education has a major role to play in this respect, the minister added.

At the outset of his tour of Irbid, Prince Hassan held a meeting with Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, who briefed him on the general conditions in Irbid region and projects being implemented within the 1986-1990 Five-Year National Development Plan.

Prince Hassan later visited the Department of Education and was briefed on education programmes in schools. Later he called at the Prince Hassan Secondary School for Boys and Ibn Tamim Preparatory School for Girls and met with teachers and students and inspected their classes and laboratories.

He was accompanied on the tour by the governor, the minister of education and heads of local departments as well as Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat and education officials.

Kidnapped politician freed; Junblatt renews appeal for Waite's release

BEIRUT (AP) — Pro-Syrian Christian politician Jean Obeid, kidnapped in west Beirut four days ago was freed on Sunday and Druze leader Walid Junblatt appealed anew for the return of missing Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite.

Police said Mr. Obeid, who has often been mentioned as a leftist-supported presidential candidate when President Amin Gemayel's term expires in September next year, was freed at 2:15 p.m. near the seaside Beauvillage Hotel.

The hotel is close to the headquarters of Syrian military observers sent to west Beirut last summer to restore order after more than two years of factional fighting, kidnappings and killings.

Mr. Obeid was freed as gunbattles between Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen and fighters of Lebanon's Communist Party raged in nearby streets. Police said seven people were wounded in the clashes between the rival militias.

Mr. Obeid, 55, a former adviser to Mr. Gemayel, was abducted from his chauffeur-driven limousine in west Beirut Thursday as he was driving to meet with Prime Minister Rasheed Karami.

Mr. Junblatt, a close friend of Mr. Obeid's, addressed his appeal for Mr. Waite's release to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), the most militant Shi'ite Muslim faction in Lebanon.

Beirut newspapers said Mr. Junblatt's plea was made in a statement to reporters Saturday at his ancestral palace in the Shoub mountains southeast of Beirut.

He spoke after British Ambassador John Gray delivered a message to him from Britain's foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe. Contents of the message were not disclosed.

Mr. Junblatt, publicly hinting for the first time that Mr. Waite, 47, may be held by Hizbollah, said: "We're still in touch with

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Mr. Junblatt, publicly hinting for the first time that Mr. Waite, 47, may be held by Hizbollah, said: "We're still in touch with

Hizbollah, and we hope they respond to us and release Waite if he is held by them."

Mr. Waite, personal emissary of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Robert Runcie, dropped from sight when he left his hotel in west Beirut Jan. 20, apparently to meet the kidnappers of Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland.

They are held by Islamic Jihad, a pro-Iranian faction that has demanded the release of 17 comrades jailed in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in December 1983.

Mr. Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia was responsible for Mr. Waite's security before his disappearance and Mr. Junblatt has offered himself as a hostage to take Mr. Waite's place if he is being held against his will.

Hizbollah has rejected claims by Western intelligence sources that it was involved in Mr. Waite's disappearance.

London reportedly upgrades contacts with Syria

LONDON (R) — The Observer newspaper said Sunday Britain was upgrading diplomatic contacts with Syria in an attempt to improve the atmosphere and help kidnapped Anglican church envoy Terry Waite's chances of being freed by his captors in Lebanon.

Britain broke off diplomatic relations with Syria last year after Syrian agents were implicated in an attempt to plant a bomb aboard an Israeli jet at London's Heathrow airport. Syria maintains an interests section, with three diplomats, in the Lebanese embassy in London, while British interests are served by the Australian embassy in Damascus.

The Observer said the Syrians were anxious to "rehabilitate" themselves and wanted to bring in a more senior man to its interests section here.

A Foreign Office spokesman said there had been no contact with Syria and said he knew of no planned personnel changes.

The Observer said it understood both Syria and Iran were negotiating with the Islamic fundamentalist group thought to be holding Mr. Waite.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel was due to meet British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Sunday night.

Mr. Gemayel, on a four-day private visit to Britain, will have talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday.

U.S. said to grant Israel status of non-NATO ally

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who was due to leave Sunday night for an official visit to the United States, said Washington had granted Israel the official status of a non-NATO ally.

"This declaration has great importance. Israel is considered an official ally for the first time," he told Israeli Radio.

The Ha'aretz newspaper said Israel's status would allow its military industries to tender for U.S. projects worth from \$200 to \$300 million a year.

Mr. Shamir's announcement appeared aimed at stressing the close relationship between Israel and the United States at a time when their ties have been clouded by Israeli involvement in the sale of American arms to Iran.

Asked if he feared tough questioning during his 10-day visit to the United States, Mr. Shamir said: "I have no fears. Israel has nothing to be embarrassed about."

Mr. Shamir is due to meet the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, which are expected to question him closely about Israel's role in what has become President Reagan's worst crisis.

A Senate report has already blamed Israel for conceiving the idea of selling arms to Iran. Israel says it acted only at Washington's request and knew nothing about the diversion of profits to the U.S.-backed "contra" Nicaraguan rebels.

Although Mr. Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz are expected to try to smooth Mr. Shamir's ruffled feathers on that score, some tough talking is expected.

The U.S. officials said that at the top of the American agenda

would be how to get the stalled Middle East peace process moving again. But Mr. Shamir appears to have shot down a main U.S. probe well before landing here on Tuesday.

U.S. officials told Reuters they wanted to explore with Mr. Shamir the possibility of an international conference that might lead to direct Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"To go to an international conference would be madness," Mr. Shamir told Israeli reporters before leaving home.

Mr. Shamir said he would propose an alternative conference consisting of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the United States and possibly Morocco.

Mr. Shamir's main rival, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labour Party, Likud's main partner in the government, supports an international conference as a way of involving the Arabs in peace negotiations.

Interviewed on Israel television, the right-wing Likud leader said: "I will tell the Americans there is a division of opinions on this issue, but there is no government decision on Israeli participation in an international conference."

He said his opinion was shared by many people in Israel.

Asked if he would try to talk U.S. leaders out of the idea of an international conference, Mr. Shamir replied: "It seems to me that I do not have to make a special effort for this."

U.S. officials said another effort would be made to ease Israeli opposition to sales of sophisticated U.S. weapons to Arab states. They said these were especially important now with a drop in American credibility in the Arab World resulting from the Iraq arms sales.

Pollard helped Israel in bombing PLO base in Tunis, report says

Convicted spy also provided secret data on Syrian, Iraqi and Pakistani programmes

TEL AVIV (AP) — Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. intelligence analyst convicted of spying for Israel, provided key data that helped Israel's air force evade detection and bomb the Tunis headquarters of the PLO, a newspaper reported Sunday.

According to an investigative report which appeared simultaneously in the Jerusalem Post and the Washington Post, Pollard was a master spy who passed on very important information and not a small-time agent with limited access to U.S. secrets. He also handed over:

- Maps and satellite pictures of Iraqi and Syrian weapons factories and storage facilities, including the layout of eight Iraqi chemical factories.
- Information about Soviet ship movements and arms deliveries to Syria and other Arab states, including information on SS-21 ground-to-ground missiles and SA-5 anti-aircraft missiles.
- A satellite photo of Pakistan's nuclear facility outside Islamabad and an alleged Pakistani programme to build atomic bombs.

The U.S. government, citing reasons of national security, has refused to divulge what information Pollard passed on to Israel. The Post quotes U.S. officials as saying Pollard gave more than 1,000 classified documents to Israel, some hundred of pages long.

The Jerusalem Post, a daily close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's Labour Party, said that despite official Israeli stance that Pollard was part of an unauthorized operation, Israeli officials speak of him as one of the Jewish state's most valuable spies ever. The newspaper said Israeli handlers compared him to Israel's most famous spy, Eli Cohen who gained access to the top echelons of the Syrian government before he was caught and hanged. As a result of their esteem, it said, Pollard was given an Israeli passport in the name of Danny Cohen.

Yossi Ahimeir, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, declined to comment on specifics of the report.

But he said, "we still say that this whole affair was a mistake from our side, a mistake of some people... we regret it and expressed our sorrow to the American government."

The newspaper report, dated from Washington by its correspondent Wolf Blitzer, said Pollard had top secret clearances and a courier card that allowed him to take information out of archives without being checked by security guards.

Citing both U.S. and Israeli sources, the report said Pollard gave Israel findings of U.S. reconnaissance over Tunisia, including a description of a building that served as headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He also passed on information about ship movements in the Mediterranean and Libya's anti-aircraft defence system.

One unnamed Israeli official was quoted as saying Pollard's information "made our life much easier" in carrying out the air strike in which about 70 Palestinians and Tunisians were killed on Oct. 1, 1985.

The U.S. government was sharply criticised by Western allies and Arab states for supporting the raid and Israel's use of U.S.-made F16 and F15 fighters on the mission.

The United Nations Security Council condemned the attack as an act of aggression, and the PLO charged the United States of giving military assistance to Israel to carry out the raid.

Pollard, 32, was arrested outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 21, 1985, and pleaded guilty to espionage. His wife, 26-year-old Anne Henderson Pollard, pleaded guilty to lesser charges of unauthorized possession of classified documents.

Both are to be sentenced March 4.

Iran arms deal said to be part of a wider covert programme in U.S.

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Arms sales to Iran and covert aid to Nicaraguan contra rebels were part of a wider Reagan administration programme to conduct private foreign policy initiatives, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper, quoting present and former government officials, said the secret policies were run by a covert arm of a programme called "Project Democracy," created in 1982. The project, through its National Endowment for Democracy, openly granted government money to foreign book publishers, labour unions and other institutions, the newspaper said.

President Reagan spoke about the programme in speeches to the British parliament and elsewhere, saying it was a means to spread the influence of democratic institutions.

But within weeks of Mr. Reagan's "Project Democracy" speech in London, the paper reported, the administration had

decided that the project needed a covert side as well.

While Congress appropriated funds for the covert wing, it was understood from the start that most of the funds were to come from non-government sources.

"As it turned out, the covert side of 'Project Democracy' apparently was also funded by foreign governments and, perhaps, by wealthy private individuals," the newspaper said.

The newspaper said the covert side was sending private raised money to the U.S.-backed contra fighting the leftist Sandinista government and was involved in the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

The covert arm came under the control of former National Security Council aide Oliver North, the newspaper said, and was not even known to top officials of "Project Democracy's" public side.

The newspaper said "Project Democracy's" covert arm operated outside normal government channels and over the last four years grew into a "parallel foreign

policy apparatus — complete with its own communications systems, secret envoys, leased ships and airplanes, offshore bank accounts and corporations."

The covert effort was an outgrowth of the administration's frustration at its inability to push Congress and the foreign policy bureaucracy to embrace the "Reagan doctrine" of supporting anti-communist rebellions, the newspaper said.

The Tower Commission, the special White House panel investigating the NSC, has found that "Project Democracy" carried out a wide array of activities, but investigators do not know the full scope of the actions, the Times said.

The Times said congressional investigators told it that after Congress restricted aid to the contra in 1984, Lieutenant-Colonel North and other officials established a labyrinth of companies, bank accounts and private employees to aid the rebels.

UNRWA food stolen in Beirut

VIENNA (R) — Unidentified men have seized food belonging to a United Nations relief organisation in South Lebanon, saying it will be taken to the besieged Rashidiyah Palestinian refugee camp, a U.N. official said Sunday.

Terry Davidson, spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, also said a UNRWA lorry convoy was seeking safe passage to take 100 tonnes of supplies to the camp, near the southern port of Tyre.

UNRWA stores held at Sidon, south of Beirut, had been taken away Saturday night but no details were immediately available of who the men were.

Witnesses have reported starvation conditions at the camp, which is home for 22,000 Palestinians.

Mr. Davidson told Reuters the stores held up to 50 tonnes of food normally used for routine relief work and feeding UNRWA workers. However, the agency had already decided to divert the supplies to Rashidiyah, which had been blockaded for four months by Amal militiamen.

"They just swiped our stuff... we just hope the food turns up in Rashidiyah," he said.

Mr. Davidson said six UNRWA lorries had left Beirut loaded mostly with flour for the camp and had stopped at the village of Sibilin. An UNRWA official had gone ahead to Sidon to negotiate safe passage for the lorries for the next stage of the journey through territory held by Palestinians and Lebanese militiamen.

China voices concern

China said Sunday it was deeply concerned about the plight of Palestinian refugees in camps in Lebanon and urged that they be given daily necessities.

The New China News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that China hoped the conflicting parties would reach an immediate and overall ceasefire and resolve their differences through friendly consultation so as to end the bloody incident and restore normality to Lebanon.

Somalia says 300 Ethiopian soldiers were killed in latest clashes on border

BURAO, Somalia (R) — A windswept plain littered with bloated bodies is the scene of the latest clash in the Horn of Africa where Somalia says it killed more than 300 Ethiopian troops.

The north-west Somalia battlefield, visited by reporters from the Somali capital, Mogadishu, saw renewed fighting last week between pro-Western Somalia and Marxist Ethiopia. The corpses wore the olive-green fatigues of the Ethiopian army and the area was littered with knocked out tanks.

After a year in which the two countries had seemed to be ending their long-standing conflict, Somalia said on Thursday that it had repulsed an Ethiopian air and ground attack on six border settlements after six hours fighting.

The local Somali commander, Major-General Mohammad Said Morgan, told correspondents on Saturday that more than 300 Ethiopian troops were killed in the clash. Hundreds more, most of them wounded, had been taken prisoner, he said. Somalis losses were put at 30 dead and 25 wounded.

Military sources said 22 Ethiopian tanks took part in the attack

and 11 of them were either destroyed or captured. Burned-out tanks and lorries were still smouldering when we arrived in the border area. They were clearly marked with Ethiopian army insignia.

Abandoned communications equipment lay in a pile 20 kilometres inside Somalia.

Ethiopia has made no comment on the fighting. There has been no explanation of what started it, although there has been increased activity in the area by rebels opposed to Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre.

Somali Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Samantar called on the Ethiopian government on Saturday to declare where it stands on the future of peace talks between the two countries.

Mr. Samantar, quoted by Mogadishu Radio, told a meeting in the Somali capital that Somalia's stand had not changed since the peace talks began last year. "What is required is for the Ethiopian government to declare its stand towards the peace negotiations... the aggression by Ethiopia against Somalia is contrary to the on-going peace talks," he said.

The rebel Somali National Movement (SNM) has stepped up activities in the north west and accused government forces of atrocities.

The rebels kidnapped 10 French medical aid workers from nearby Tng Wajale refugee settlement last month and freed them in Ethiopia two weeks later.

Diplomats say Ethiopia has complained of Somali incursions into Ethiopian territory, but there has been no sign of a new build-up of tension between the two countries.

Somali troops captured a large area of Ethiopia's ethnically-Somali Ogaden province in the 1977-78 desert war, but were driven out by Ethiopian forces allegedly backed by Cuban troops and Soviet military advisers.

Ethiopia still holds two border areas, Balamale and Galkadogh, after seizing them three years ago.

Both sides had seemed to be moving towards peace. President Siad Barre met Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam in the Red Sea port of Djibouti 13 months ago. Mr. Siad Barre said last month that he planned to visit Addis Ababa soon for more talks with Mr. Mengistu.

Israel doubles number of troops in S. Lebanon

LONDON (R) — Israel has doubled the number of its troops in southern Lebanon to almost 3,000 men in the past two weeks to prevent the collapse of the Israeli-backed Christian militia.

The Sunday Telegraph reported. The newspaper said the Israeli army had moved a mechanised infantry brigade into its self-styled "security zone" just north of the border to bolster the South Lebanese Army (SLA).

Israel's government co-ordinator for Lebanon, Yuri Lubrani, was quoted as saying: "I wake up in the middle of the night over the prospect of greater casualties. Lebanon is now a dirty word in Israel."

"In the last two years we have lost only 12 soldiers in Lebanon but with the SLA in need of support, that figure could be doubled in one go."

Interpol seeking ex-head of Arab Monetary Fund

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates has asked Interpol to help locate a former president of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) who will be sentenced in Abu Dhabi next month for a multi-million-dollar loss during his AMF tenure, informed sources reported Sunday.

The case was filed here in mid-1985 by the public prosecutor and the Abu Dhabi-based AMF against Jawad Hashim and three former AMF senior employees, Jalal Awhan Stefan, Mahdi Saleh Al Olom and Samir Abdul Latif.

The four have been accused of alleged misappropriation of funds leading to the loss of more than \$100 million during the period when Mr. Hashim directed the fund from 1977 to 1982.

The fund was set up by Arab governments in 1977 along the lines of the International Monet-

ary Fund (IMF) to give balance of payments support to poorer Arab states.

All accused are Iraqi citizens. The sources said Mr. Hashim had fled Abu Dhabi before the trial and was currently staying in Britain after acquiring Canadian citizenship.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be further identified, said an Interpol team was heading to London to try to arrest Mr. Hashim.

"Another Interpol team was heading to Cairo for the same purpose following information that Mr. Hashim was currently in the Egyptian capital as member of a business delegation."

The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper Al Wabda reported earlier in the day that the final defence presentations were presented to the Abu Dhabi criminal court this weekend.

Qadhafi rejects 'hostile regime' in N'djamena

LONDON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said Libya would not accept the installation of a hostile regime in Chad, Libyan Television reported.

The television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Saturday night that Colonel Qadhafi made the comment in an interview with French quarterly Journal Politique Internationale.

He was quoted as saying Libya would not accept, "regardless of any justification, the installation of a hostile regime in Chad which will be used by imperialism to destabilise the security and

stability of the Arab Libyan people in their borders."

Col. Qadhafi described the French presence in Chad as "colonial and disgraceful," saying France was "creating problems for herself with Libya," the television reported.

He was also quoted as saying Libya was prepared to welcome the "Arab racism in France and other European countries."

France has a military force in its former colony Chad to support the N'djamena government of President Hissene Habre against Libyan troops and rebel guerrillas in the north of the country.

The Chad government reported on Saturday that its forces had clashed with Libyan troops in the far north of the country, which has been under Libyan occupation for the last 14 years.

A military high command statement read over N'djamena Radio said two Libyan soldiers were killed and many others wounded in the fighting on Thursday at the remote outpost of Zoumari, in the Aouzou area claimed by Libya.

It said Chad government forces suffered no casualties.

Military analysts said it was the first time Chad had reported

fighting so far north or inside the disputed Aouzou strip since the latest flare-up began in mid-December.

Up to now, much of the fighting has been around the northeastern oasis of Fada, recaptured by President Habre's forces early last month, and in the Tibesti mountains in the north-west of the country.

Chad wants to dislodge Libyan troops from the north of the country where they have been backing rebels opposed to the N'djamena government.

The oasis of Aouzou has been occupied by Libya since 1973 and has a large Libyan garrison.

GCC working on final draft of security strategy

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Interior ministers from the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began talks on Sunday to agree the final draft of a unified strategy on regional security.

The ministers declined to discuss details of the proposed strategy, put together at a recent meeting of interior under-secretaries from the GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Informed sources, however, told Reuters the plan was specifically tailored to get round reservations by Kuwait over issues such as the theoretical right of any GCC state to pursue criminal, for an unspecified distance inside other member states.

Kuwait has so far refused to sign a joint GCC security pact agreed in 1982 saying some clauses infringed on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Senior council member Saudi Arabia already has bilateral security accords with its GCC allies except for Kuwait, which has been the target of several bomb attacks and sabotage plots over the past three years.

The sources quoted by Reuters said the ministers were expected to approve the pact, which will then be submitted for ratification by the council's foreign ministers due to meet in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Omani Interior Minister Sayyid Badr Ibn Saud Ibn Hareb was quoted meanwhile as saying the strategy was based on a number of ideals and principles and Islamic law "characterised by tolerance and hindering ties between GCC members."

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara reiterated to reporters Saturday night the security of the Gulf was the collective responsibility of all the countries of the region.

Economic integration

In Dubai, the GCC opened a seminar on Saturday on "integrated planning" as part of a quest for a common market in the region.

Mr. Bishara said the five-year-old economic agreement "progressing satisfactorily."

The initial phase of the economic agreement is scheduled to be operational by March 1, less than a fortnight away.

Mr. Bishara told reporters that there were no obstacles to the implementation of the joint economic programme which was to be fully operational by the mid 1990s.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme Review
15:55 Cartoons
16:10 Toms Sawyer
16:35 Scientific Programme (Arabic)
17:00 Different Strides
17:30 Time to Time
18:00 Arabic Series
18:50 Local Panel
19:20 Local Comedy
19:50 Programme Review and Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Message from Oman
20:40 Arabic Series
21:40 News in Arabic
22:00 Tomorrow's Programmes
22:05 Arabic Series
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic Varieties
23:30 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'ube des hommes
18:00 News in French
19:15 Sport magazine (French)
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Magazine Zero One
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Executive Stress
21:10 Rage of Angles (mini series)
22:00 News in English
22:30 Fresco (mini series)

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 950 KHz. SW
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07:00

Light Music
Newsdesk
Morning Show
News Summary
Morning Show
Just a Minute
Follow the Wing
News Summary
Spectrum
News Summary
Pop Session
News Bulletin
Concert Hour
News Summary
Instrumentals
Old Favourites
My Word
Pop Session
News Summary
Sports Roundup
Music
News Desk
Date with a Star
Evening Show

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 123 KHz

06:00

Newsdesk 06:30 The Wind in the Willows 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Waveguide 07:00 World News 07:24 News 07:30 News Summary 07:30 Nature Notebook 07:45 Recording of the Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Not So Long Ago 09:00 World News 09:24 News 09:30 News Summary 09:30 Play Jude the Obscure 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Wind in the Willows 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 News Summary 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial News 11:45 People's Choice 12:00 News Summary: Not So Long Ago 12:30 The Alternative Fronts 12:50 World News 13:00 News About Britain 13:15 Zoolark - Berlin 13:30 Album Time 14:00 Radio Newswear 14:15 Quote, Unquote 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Look What They've Done to My Song 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Stories by Dorothy 17:00 Radio Newswear 17:15 Not So Long Ago 17:45 Kings of Swing 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 19:15 My Word 19:20 News Summary 19:30 News 19:30 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk 19:30 News Ideas 19:40 Book Choice 19:50 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 730, 965, 1740, 1925 and 1520 KHz

05:00

News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 06:50 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 07:50 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:50 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:50 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:50 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 11:50 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 12:50 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 13:50 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 14:50 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 15:50 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 16:50 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 17:50 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 18:50 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 19:50 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 20:50 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 21:50 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 22:50 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 23:50 News 24:10 Newsline 24:30 VOA Morning 24:50 News 25:10 Newsline 25:30 VOA Morning 25:50 News 26:10 Newsline 26:30 VOA Morning 26:50 News 27:10 Newsline 27:30 VOA 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Tawjihi results out today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has prepared the lists of final results for the first term of the tawjihi examination taken last month and the ministry will announce the results today.

A ministry spokesman said that students can go to their schools as usual and receive their results.

According to Mr. Odeh Al Najdawi, assistant director of examinations at the Ministry of Education which organised the examinations, the results of the first term were generally good and of a similar standard to the previous years' marks.

A total of 51,124 tawjihi students sat for the eight examination sessions last month in the scientific, literary, industrial, agricultural, nursing, postal, commercial and hotel management streams.

Government revises prices of units at Abu Nuseir

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has revised the prices of housing units at Abu Nuseir housing estate, west of Amman, and decided on a number of measures to make it easier for beneficiaries to pay their instalments. Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawadeh announced on Sunday.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Zawadeh said that beneficiaries will not be requested to pay an advance of 10 per cent of the total cost of the housing units. This means they are now exempted from paying between JD 2,317 to JD 5,460 as a pledge of their commitment to paying the total cost and purchase the units.

According to Mr. Zawadeh, the government considers the beneficiaries not to be responsible for the additional services that were introduced to the housing estate and will therefore not demand that they pay these costs. He said the treasury will pay the cost of these services, which amounted to JD 30 million.

The Cabinet on Saturday evening announced the following measures in response to recommendations by the Housing Corporation:

- Beneficiaries will pay the original price set by the Housing Corporation before the introduction of the additional services;
- They will be required to pay only the cost of the units spread over 30 instead of 25 years at an annual interest rate of 5.5 per cent;
- Beneficiaries will not be required to pay 10 per cent of the units' cost in advance unless they wish to do so;
- The treasury will cover the difference between the cost of the units as originally announced and the higher actual cost when the project was completed;
- Only those beneficiaries who committed themselves to purchasing the units will be able to benefit from these measures and the 10 per cent of the total cost that they had paid will be considered as instalments paid in advance;
- The remaining units which have not been sold will be offered to employees in the public sector in three months from now.

In the press conference, Mr. Zawadeh said that the Housing Corporation has built six schools and laid electricity cables and water, telephone and transport networks within the housing estate. He said that it has also set up shopping centres and installed a wastewater treatment plant as well as providing street lighting and central heating to all the housing units.

The Housing Corporation, he said, built a road to link the housing estate with the main two-lane road going to Yajouz highway and added that there are plans for including the housing estate in the Greater Amman region so that it can benefit from more services and facilities.

At present, the Housing Corporation is building side roads, retaining walls and planting some 50,000 trees on the housing estate, Mr. Zawadeh continued.

Earlier, Mr. Zawadeh had said that agreement was reached with the Health Ministry to open a health clinic and that another agreement has been reached with the Public Transport Corporation which will operate a regular bus service for the benefit of residents at the Abu Nuseir housing estate.

Only half of the land allotted for the housing estate has been used for the construction of the 3,500 housing units at Abu Nuseir and the vacant units were earlier reported to be available for sale to the public and the land to be sold to expatriates for building their own homes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez calls Lower House to session

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez has summoned the House for a meeting on Tuesday Feb. 17. The House's administrative committee said it will meet on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. Zuhair Thounan Al Hussein. The committee members will be reviewing a number of subjects referred to it by the House.

Mineral exports increase in 1986

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fertilisers, potash and phosphate via Aqaba port increased in 1986 over 1985 exports, according to Ports Corporation sources. The sources added that during 1986 Jordan exported 552,323 tonnes of fertilisers, 1,125,216 tonnes of potash and 5,197,665 tonnes of phosphates compared to 519,542 tonnes of fertilisers, 898,335 tonnes of potash and 4,609,511 tonnes of phosphate exported during 1985.

Syrian agri-engineers arrive today

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Syrian Agricultural Engineers Association is due here Monday on a four-day visit to Jordan and for talks with officials and members of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association. The delegation, to be led by Dr. Yahya Bakour, the association's president, will discuss ways to bolster cooperation between agricultural engineers in Jordan and Syria and prospects for a programme to exchange expertise between the associations of both countries. The delegation will also tour a number of agricultural projects, industrial concerns and several other institutions.

Industry chambers reshuffles board

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry on Sunday appointed Mr. Khalid Abu Hassan as deputy board chairman of the chamber to succeed Mr. Zaid Shih'a who resigned his post. The chamber's board, which met Saturday evening under the chairmanship of Mr. Isam Budeir, also appointed Mr. Abbas Al Nabulsi as a board member. Mr. Khalid Kanaan has been appointed as the chamber's secretary to succeed Mr. Abu Hassan.

Tunisian transport team due Feb. 23

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Transport is due here on Feb. 23 for a week-long visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Transport on strengthening and promoting bilateral relations in transport fields. The delegation will also explore the possibility of benefiting from Jordan's experience for application in organising the land transport sector in Tunisia.

Man shoots and wounds another

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 40-year-old man identified by the police as H.M.M. shot and wounded another 30-year-old man identified as N.A.A. in North Marqah over a trade difference between them, according to preliminary investigations carried out by the public security forces. The sources added that the wounded man was taken to hospital and was reported to be in a stable condition.

Prince Sultan ends visit after talks with prime minister, Sharif Zaid

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia left Amman at the end of his two-day visit to Jordan during which he presented His Majesty King Hussein a medal commemorating the 1986 space flight by the U.S. space shuttle Discovery which carried Prince Sultan as a crew member.

In a statement before his departure, Prince Sultan paid tribute to the King's leadership and to Jordan's role in serving pan-Arab causes.

Prince Sultan said he appreciated and supported King Hussein's call on Arabs to lend more interests to science and technology to help them catch up with advanced nations in different fields.

Earlier on Sunday, Prince Sultan met Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in the presence of Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Sultan.

He later met Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker in the presence of the Saudi ambassador and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Prince Sultan was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Also Sunday, Prince Sultan called at the University of Jordan and was briefed by its president, Abdul Salam Al Majali, on the university's development. Prince Sultan toured the campus and visited the library. He was accompanied on the visit by the Saudi ambassador.

Also on Sunday Prince Sultan



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai holds a meeting with Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Sunday (Petra photo)

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Also on Sunday Prince Sultan

Austria negotiating its inclusion in Jordan's 24-hour mail delivery service

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Negotiations are underway between the Jordanian and Austrian governments to introduce the public-run 24-hour mail delivery service between Vienna and Amman, Mansour Ibn Tarif, under secretary at the Ministry of Communications said Sunday.

Mr. Ibn Tarif said that for the time being the ministry does not plan to make its services available between the Kingdom and countries of the Eastern bloc since the volume of postal correspondence in general and business mail in particular was very low.

He explained that the ministry also got negative feedback from countries of the Arab Maghreb. So far, the ministry's fast mail delivery service, launched last July, covers 18 Arab and foreign destinations.

The volume of mail transactions, protocol agreements and other countries' response to the ministry's demands were three major factors pertaining to the inauguration of the express mail service between the Kingdom and other destinations. Operations of

in-coming and out-going express mail services are handled by the Central Post Office in downtown Amman. Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national airline, is carrying the mail to and from Jordan.

Complaints

Describing the service as "very reliable and of high quality," Mr. Ibn Tarif refuted allegations that fast mail delivery to France often took more than 24-hours to reach its destination.

Three members of the public

had earlier called the Jordan Times to state that some of the Royal Jordanian's staff were not punctual in delivering letters and packages sent via Jordan's 24-hour mail service. Usually mail distribution in foreign and Arab countries is done through the Royal Jordanian's offices.

"We are always ready to receive any complaints and to look into their source of origin," said Mr. Ibn Tarif, urging all members of the public who were dissatisfied with the ministry's express mail service to contact the concerned officials.

Asked by "Verdi what Verdi did to Shakespeare," and, as Zeffirelli says: "Cinema is an art, and opera is an art so putting the two together is not easy."

AMMAN — In something of a scoop, the Baccalaureate School Theatre this week is showing the recently released film version of Verdi's opera "Otello". Directed by the acclaimed and controversial Franco Zeffirelli, "Otello" has been specially flown in by the Italian Embassy here in Amman for its first showing in the Middle East. The film, which was first screened at the Montreal Film Festival in August of last year received some highly favourable reviews, the common theme of which was that the film will not only appeal to scholars and fans of opera but to people who have never heard of the opera before.

One reviewer writing for "The Listener" said: "Otello was a feast for the eyes as well as the ears as the film is in constant restless motion with hardly a scene allowed to establish itself in stillness." He concluded that: "It's (the film) a virtuoso piece: wonderful, breathtaking at times and altogether excessive."

The first ever performance of Verdi's original opera took place in February 1887, a hundred years ago almost to the day of the showing of the film here in Amman on Friday. Verdi based his opera on that of Shakespeare's play "Othello" which is a story of love, jealousy and destruction. Set in Cyprus at the end of the Fifteenth Century, it traces the descent of the Moor, Othello, from supreme happiness to utter despair and suicide caused solely by the evil misdoings of his lieutenant, Iago. Placido Domingo takes the role of the ill-fated Moor, while Katia Ricciarelli plays Desdemona, the wrongly accused wife whom he murders in a fit of insane jealousy.

In his adaptation of the opera, Zeffirelli changed the original story, doing to "Verdi what Verdi did to Shakespeare," and, as Zeffirelli says: "Cinema is an art, and opera is an art so putting the two together is not easy."

Asked by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, about Romania's stand vis-a-vis the proposed international conference on the Middle East, Mr. Giosan said that his country reaffirms the need for such a conference as the best forum for establishing peace based on justice. This conference, he said, should be held under United Nations auspices and with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States and the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council as well as the parties to the Middle East conflict.

Romanian President Nicolai Ceausescu proposed in 1978 that the conference be held and has since been engaged in efforts to overcome all obstacles preventing the convening of the conference. Mr. Giosan said.

During the delegation's visit, they are expected to be received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and will hold talks with Mr. Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez and other Parliament members to discuss parliamentary affairs and Middle East issues.

The delegation will also tour archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

The delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport by Mr. Lawzi and other officials.

Shortly after arriving in Amman, Mr. Giosan visited the Martyrs' Monument on the outskirts of Amman. He was met by senior army officers who accompanied him on a tour of the monument.

Mr. Giosan inspected items on display and was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Jordan, Mauritania sign agreement on scientific and cultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Mauritania on Sunday signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in the cultural, technical, scientific and information fields.

Under the agreement, both countries agree to work towards unifying their educational syllabi, especially in the subjects of Arab history and geography, and will offer one another scholarships for study at higher educational institutions. The agreement also provides for the exchange of visits by staff and educational specialists, conducting joint cultural work, bolstering bilateral cooperation in vocational and technical fields and launching cooperation in the publication of books and magazines, in addition to holding seminars and training courses related to education and culture and organising cultural festivals and sports events.

The two countries agree to launch cooperation in radio and television through the exchange of programmes and transmissions by the national news agencies of Jordan and Mauritania and through the press associations in both countries.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, and Mr. Mohammad Fadel, Mauritania's non-resident ambassador to Jordan.

Following the signing of the agreement, the ambassador was received by Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad. They reviewed cooperation between the two countries in higher education and the acceptance of Mauritanian students at Jordanian universities and community colleges.

Romanian parliamentary delegation arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member Romanian parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Sunday on a four-day official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament.

The delegation is led by Mr. Nikolai Giosan, speaker of Romania's National Assembly, who made a statement upon arrival paying tribute to Romanian-Jordanian relations. The volume of trade between the two countries, the economic links and the joint projects manifest the strong ties between the Jordanian and Romanian peoples, Mr. Giosan said.

Mr. Giosan said that the aim of his visit was to further strengthen existing ties between Jordan and Romania, which, he continued, bold almost identical views on most world issues and the major problems in the Middle East region, especially the Palestine problem and the Gulf war.

Mr. Giosan said that the leadership of Romania and Jordan continue to exert relentless efforts for ending the Iran-Iraq war and restoring peace in the Middle East and Gulf.

Asked by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, about Romania's stand vis-a-vis the proposed international conference on the Middle East, Mr. Giosan said that his country reaffirms the need for such a conference as the best forum for establishing peace based on justice. This conference, he said, should be held under United Nations auspices and with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States and the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council as well as the parties to the Middle East conflict.

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During the delegation's visit, they are expected to be received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and will hold talks with Mr. Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez and other Parliament members to discuss parliamentary affairs and Middle East issues.

The delegation will also tour archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

The delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport by Mr. Lawzi and other officials.

Shortly after arriving in Amman, Mr. Giosan visited the Martyrs' Monument on the outskirts of Amman. He was met by senior army officers who accompanied him on a tour of the monument.

Mr. Giosan inspected items on display and was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

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Martial arts, humour and cartoons from Japan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Movie-goers interested in oriental cinema will have an opportunity to see a different kind of cinema when three Japanese films are screened at the Royal Cultural Centre later this week. The Japanese embassy's film show is for people interested in the Japanese sense of humour, martial arts and animated cartoons.

The first film, "Fall Guy," is a 1982 comedy which takes the viewers into the world of glamorous, yet farcical cinema life of Japan. The story is about three actors and one actress whose lives are comically intertwined.

Ginshiro is a superstar who gets actress Konatsu pregnant, but he throws the responsibility on Yasu. Yasu does not mind marrying Konatsu as he would do anything to please Ginshiro.

Meanwhile, Ginshiro is preoccupied with a threat to his stardom. He is worried that a new actor on the cinema scene, Tachibana, is overshadowing him. So Ginshiro tries to regain his declining popularity in the movie he is filming in which there is a very dangerous scene. None of the stuntmen are willing to risk their lives but Ginshiro's loyal admirer, Yasu, comes to the rescue and

takes the fall while Konatsu gives birth to the baby.

"Fall Guy," directed by Fukasaku Kinji, will be screened on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the main theatre of the RCC. All the films are subtitled in Arabic.

Strange goings on in a Samurai clan

On Feb. 19, also at 7 p.m., is a black and white 1960s classic, "Sanjuro." This is a story of a Samurai clan which is led by a corrupt master. The nine Samurai of the clan think that chamberlain Mutsuda is behind all the depravity. However, a roaming and masterless Samurai, Tsubaki Sanjuro, tells the clan that superintendant Kikui is the one who is the actual oppressor.

Sanjuro sets off to save the nine young men from the superintendant's ruthless guards. At the same time he tries to find the chamberlain who has been kidnapped by them. Sanjuro and the nine Samurai pursue a violent adventure — where lives are lost — to clean up the corruption in the once-respectable clan.

Akira Kurosawa, the director of Sanjuro, is well-known in Japanese cinema and has won several international awards for his films.

Their next stop is an ice planet, Pluto. There, the two find an outrageous life-style. They also meet a beautiful woman who regrets her wish to stay young and beautiful forever. The three continue their fantastic journey on Galaxy Express 999... find out what the two women and Tetsuro will encounter.

Admittance to all three movies is free of charge.

For parents and children, the third Japanese film on Feb. 23 at 5 o'clock is "Galaxy Express 999," a cartoon film that takes spectators on a galaxy train ride into space.

Tetsuro lost his parents when they were killed by mechanical guards. To keep himself and other orphans in the city slum from hunger, he steals food. One day, he steals a galaxy train ticket and sets off on the train with Maeter, a mysterious and beautiful woman, who helps him escape from the mechanical guards who caught him stealing.

The Galaxy Express 999's first stop is a satellite, Titan: a paradise, but also a very dangerous body in the solar system. Tetsuro and Maeter face some difficulties, but they continue their journey into space after a small adventure.

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JCFC chief leaves for Sudan, Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) Director General Khalidoun Al Thaher left for Khartoum Sunday on a three-day visit to Sudan at the invitation of the Sudanese minister of industry. During his visit, Dr. Thaher will hold talks with Sudanese officials on the cement and construction materials industry in Sudan and the possibility of providing Sudan's cement industry with technical expertise.

Dr. Thaher, who is also deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Cement and Building Materials Union, will discuss the possibility of meeting Sudan's cement needs. Dr. Thaher will later visit Egypt for talks with officials regarding a contract for the sale of Jordanian cement to Egypt.

DIRECTOR

The Board of Trustees of the Baghdad International School (BIS) wishes to appoint a director for the school to commence his/her functions in late summer of 1987 (July/August).

The annual salary ranges from USDLR 28,000 to USDLR 38,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The school also offers favourable housing and transportation allowances.

The Baghdad International School is closely associated with the UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA) Baghdad. The language of instruction is English and the school offers tuition from kindergarten to 12th grade; it also prepares students for GCE "O" and "A" levels. Essential qualifications: Minimum ten years solid experience relevant to education including at least five years as principal.

Director or other high level administrator preferably in international educational institutions. Languages: Fluency in English, knowledge of Arabic desirable.

Deadline for applications: 10 March 1987. Contact UNDP, telephone 668171 Mr. Ahmad Ghadieh, Amman

مواظفة وزارة العمل رقم ٨٧/٤٩/٨٧ تاريخ ١٩٨٧/٢/١٥

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Gorbachev's glasnost

MR. MIKHAIL Gorbachev's perceived need for changes both in Soviet domestic and foreign policies seems to have emerged him to embark on a number of bold initiatives, deliberately straying from the beaten path of his predecessors. Soon after his accession to the Kremlin leadership, he set out to stimulate changes in the international arena. His proposal aimed at ridding the world of all nuclear stockpiles by the turn of the century has attracted universal attention. He supported this stated objective with a unilaterally declared Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests, a proposal for drastic cuts in the number of nuclear weapons and a snap mini-summit with the U.S. President Ronald Reagan at Reykjavik last October. All this suggests that General Secretary Gorbachev aims at effecting a structural change in the superpower relationship which for the last forty years has remained immutably grounded on the doctrine of nuclear deterrence on which international security and peace now depend.

A good deal of Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to free the world from nuclear weapons was viewed in the West with cynicism and extreme scepticism, branding those attempts as exercises in propaganda. But what has raised eye-brows in the West more than anything else is Mr. Gorbachev's concerted effort to bring about domestic reforms in the Soviet Union. Most in the West may feel that he is about to stir a hornet's nest.

Mr. Gorbachev appears to have come down heavily on corruption in high places, drunkenness, drug abuse, autocratic management and a whole lot of other socio-political-economic evils in the Soviet Union. He does not fault the Communist system for the existence of such evils but blames individuals well entrenched in party positions wrongly applying Communist principles to further their own selfish interests without regard for the needs of ordinary citizens. He has advocated glasnost (openness) in discussing his people's problems. He has also encouraged former dissident artists and writers to express themselves freely. He has initiated steps in freeing dissidents and prisoners of conscience from internal exile. All these are indications that there is a gradual loosening of rigidity, dogmatism and regimentation that has characterised Soviet society in the past.

What most astounds the Western observers is perhaps Mr. Gorbachev's recent proposal to introduce the secret ballot in the election of party officials — a major initiative in his reform campaign. By this he is not about to overthrow the Communist system. His intentions are very clear. He says he wants to make members of the Communist party more efficient and committed to serve better the people and the state. He does not want to make a fetish of Communist ideology. While basically upholding Marxism-Leninism, it appears that he wants to redefine Communism and make it more relevant to the needs and demands of Soviet society in the modern world. In trying to do this, one would expect that Mr. Gorbachev has his finger on the pulse of his own people. We will have to wait; only time can tell whether or not his attempts at reforms will be crowned with success.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The continuing resistance

ANTI-Israeli demonstrations have broken out in the Syrian Golan Heights and other parts of the occupied Arab territories, proving once again that the struggle is still on for liberation and for ending Israel's occupation of Arab land. Many of the demonstrations in the Arab towns were staged to protest against continued shelling and siege imposed on the Palestinian refugees in their camps around Beirut and in South Lebanon. The Palestinians, now under the yoke of Israel occupation, have not forgotten their kinsmen elsewhere and have risen to protest their continued sufferings. The inhabitants of the occupied territories have defied Israel's arbitrary measures and have clashed with Israeli troops in the process of expressing their feelings and their sympathy with their brethren now being starved and shelled by the Amal militia in Lebanon. In the Syrian Golan Heights the Arab inhabitants rose against the occupation authorities on the fifth anniversary of Israel's annexation of their territory. They too want to prove to the world that they reject occupation and continue their struggle for freedom. This uprising against the invaders in the Golan and the occupied Palestinian land should move the whole Arab Nation to take an all-out measure and unify its action and lift the injustice from the Arab citizens now being exposed to Israel's atrocities.

Al Dustour: Furthering democracy

AS was expected, the referendum in Egypt held three days ago showed the Egyptian people's support for the dissolution of the Egyptian People's Council prior to holding a general election in April. The people voted on this measure as proposed by the government with the intention of allowing independent personalities to run for the new election. We were not surprised to see that 90 per cent of the voters supported the dissolution of the council because the motion was supported by the government's ruling party and the opposition alike. The move came after the Egyptian people have become convinced of the need to dissolve the council which would be entrusted with the task of re-electing a new president and probably facing the possibility of re-appointing Mr. Mubarak for a second term in office. Generally speaking the move has been welcomed by the public in Egypt and as it is being looked on as government response to part of the demands made by the opposition which hopes to make more gains in the coming election. The move is also considered as a gain for the president himself who has now won further public support for his liberal policies, rarely seen in other Third World countries. We regard the changes now going on in Egypt as a move towards further enhancing the meaning of democracy which Egypt opted for under President Mubarak.

Sawt Al Shaab: Selected targets

IN the on-going war in the Gulf region, Iraq has been avoiding hitting civilian targets; and Iraqi planes have been raiding selected targets in a bid to paralyse Iran's war machine. Iraq has been keen on hitting military positions and also economic installations in order to convince the ruling regime in Tehran of the futility of the war against Iraq. In their attacks on Iranian cities, Iraqi pilots carefully select their targets because the Iraqi government and people do not want to kill civilians but aim rather to persuade the Iranian people of the need to seek peace and not war. In the battlefield, the Iraqis have been successful not only in repulsing Iranian attacks but also in deterring any future offensives; and it is now Iraq's intention to send a message to the Iranian people urging them to force their leaders to stop the war for which the Iranians themselves are paying so dearly with their lives and property. In return, the Iranian rulers who suffered defeat in the battlefield have been sending death threats to Iraqi cities, killing and maiming innocent civilians.

Tips for road safety

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

If you see a car coming your way and the driver is busy talking on his car telephone, please duck away and take immediate cover for who knows the driver with the telephone could be so engrossed with his conversation with his loved one or his business partner that he can no longer see you or notice your presence. Otherwise the next thing you could feel would be a big bang against your car and blood gushing out of your head and limbs.

Yet the streets of Amman and the roads and highways of Jordan are now full of such cars zooming back and forth across the municipal and rural areas of our country. One would certainly feel more comfortable and safer if the introduction of this mode of technology to Jordanian style of mobile life was confined to the back seat passengers of motor vehicles. Indeed many countries of the world which had introduced this good service to their respective citizenry have confined its use to the non-driver seat passengers of cars in order to avoid distracting drivers from looking where they should be: straight ahead with full concentration and undivided attention.

It does not take much imagination to realise that dialing a telephone number and engaging in conversations whether of romantic or business nature would lower considerably the attention of drivers. So, while one would welcome this transfer of technology to our midst, we should question the wisdom of its deployment in a manner and situation which could be very prejudicial to public weal. Without much inconvenience to potential users of auto-telephones, concerned authorities could easily restrict the use of such telephones to such conditions as to maximise the safety of all the users of roads and highways. If the applicants for auto-telephones cannot afford to be chauffeured around, they would be better advised and the public more protected if they relinquish and

forego this added luxury and convenience. One may presume that big business executives and senior governmental officials who have a pressing need for telephone communications with the outside world at all times can afford to hire chauffeurs as well. We have the right to ask them to make a choice as indeed is the case in all corners of the world which have incorporated an effective road safety policies. Let us not wait till we have a series of car accidents and fatalities on our streets and roads from negligence due to the use of auto-telephones before we see the light of day and act to stop this potential danger from continuing to roam our streets.

Another valuable and timely tip to our drivers and pedestrians, which I humbly would like to submit, concerns the STOP signs on our roads and streets. I think all of us who are using our streets for one reason or another have already painfully discovered that there is a complete and utter disrespect by all for the STOP signs. And when I say all, I mean also the traffic police. I have yet to see a traffic policeman who would stop a driver for violating the STOP sign. One gets the impression that in our road vocabulary, and practice, a STOP sign means DON'T STOP. Cars zoom past these STOP signs unperturbed and unconcerned or bothered. And if you happen to be a driver or pedestrian who counts on the observance of that sign, you would be better advised to stop doing so forthwith and start walking and driving defensively by also ignoring the existence of the STOP signs. I wish somebody whether from the police department or even from the insurance companies who ultimately foot the bill of these stupid violations would investigate this matter and determine the connection between the rate of accidents and fatalities on our roads and streets and the utter disrespect and disregard for the STOP sign. I feel certain there is an

obvious correlation between the two phenomena and I equally feel certain that the statistics on this subject would bear me out.

A third tip that I would like to offer to people in these regards is to refrain from putting their children and infants in the front seat next to the driver. I am not just going to relate the fact that many countries prohibit putting children and infants in the front seats but I would like as well to appeal to common sense, common sense which was proven right by investigation and statistics. A child or infant does not benefit from a safety belt, presuming it is used in the first place. A sudden stop of a car could mean that the child or infant would be jerked forward against the windshield of the car with his or her head leading the impact point. It does not take much imagination to appreciate what could happen to such a child or infant. It is surprising that no one in our traffic department has thought of this point and no legislation has been enacted till now to deal with this matter. And while I am on this point on the need to provide our little ones with an added protection from ourselves, parents should be reminded that all car models have a lock system to prevent children from opening car doors while they are in motion. Legislation on this matter would be likewise in order and timely.

One can go on and on offering ideas on how to make our roads and streets safer, and the list of possible measures that could be incorporated can never be exhaustive. Authorities must continue the path that they have taken in making our roads safer. The recent decision to reintroduce the mandatory use of safety belts would become a shallow measure if we continue to ignore the other aspects of road safety. Otherwise our right hand would be taken away what our left hand has saved.

Sudan: Mutual ignorance fuels the north-south divide

By Jill Lusk

SUDAN'S first new year since 1969 under a democratically elected government began with celebrations — the 31st anniversary of independence from Britain and Egypt. What was not celebrated was the fact that, on the very eve of independence on January 1, 1956, war broke out in southern Sudan. That war is still being fought today. Despite 11 years of peace after the 1972 agreement, the south has suffered 20 years of war since independence. It now looks set to suffer its 21st. Though outsiders usually label this relentless conflict "civil war," northern Sudanese have lived in peace throughout. It is the national army which, in the south, fights rebels from the south — often with troops from the south.

In Sudan's virtually roadless million square miles, nobody travels anywhere unless they have to.

It is hardly surprising, then, that most northerners consider the war largely a southern problem, without relevance to their daily lives. In Sudan's virtually roadless million square miles, nobody travels anywhere unless they have to, so the remote south has no reality for most northerners. For southerners, things are different. Poverty breeds migration and many move to the north to find work as domestic servants and casual labourers. This does not foster mutual understanding. Social contact between any northerners and southerners is almost non-existent and the mutual ignorance of each others' ways of living and thinking can be staggering to a foreigner, to whom both sides earnestly confide prejudices portrayed as "facts."

Northern attempts to explain the war often involve a "communist," but small, rebel band — the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) — controlled by any and every combination of alien interests. Not only supply-bases Ethiopia and its ally, the Soviet Union, but also Britain, Israel, the U.S., Kenya, Uganda, voluntary agencies and Christian missionaries, especially the World Council of Churches, are all cast in the role of villains. In many northern minds, southerners are not really considered capable of conducting a war, for which, in any case, no solid causes are acknowledged. The southern self-image of the underdog, however, tends to produce a more personal approach: hatred is frequently the response to what is perceived

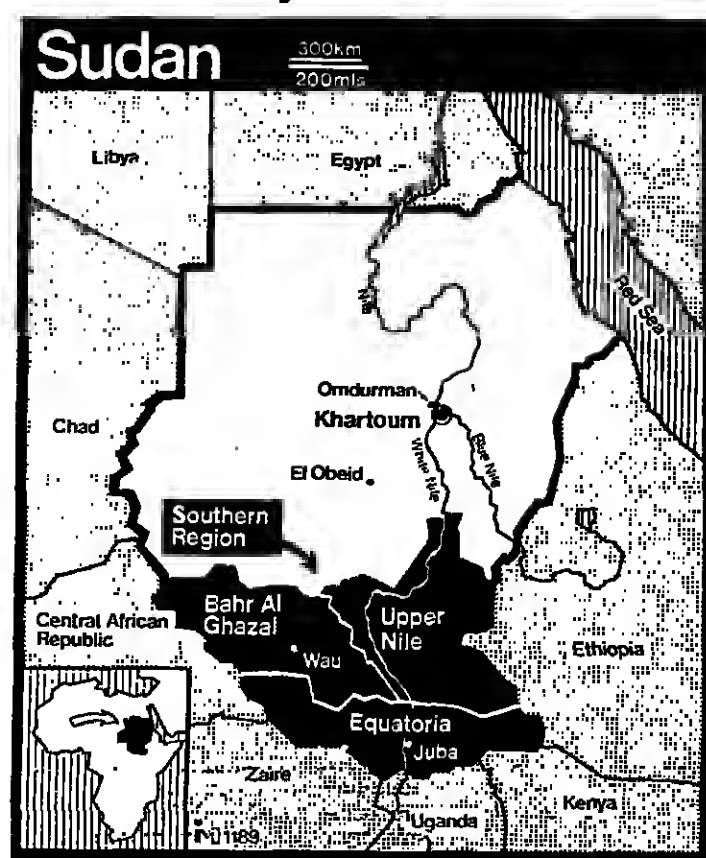
as colonialist oppression. With dozens of tribes, each with its own language, religion and institutions, southern identity as a whole is widespread both in northern Sudan and abroad, and the unity this implies is based mainly on the Christian educated elite and the important historic and contemporary role of missionaries. In addition, the northern Muslim majority finds it hard to accept the continued prevalence of tribal religions which, unlike Christianity, constitute no religion at all to a Muslim. Yet, according to one church estimate, Christians are fewer than 30 per cent of the south's estimated six million people, while another put those in the rebel heartland of Upper Nile at a mere two per cent.

The north is overwhelmingly Arabic-speaking and Muslim, and Islam permeates, at least passively, every aspect of life. The dominant national ethos is therefore also solidly Muslim and "northern" — "Arab" to a southerner. Northern identity is equated with Sudanese identity and is therefore not at stake for northerners. At the centre of the world and never having had the slightest interest in the south, many are genuinely puzzled by southern accusations of oppression and demands for equality. Feeling their northern national identity under fire, they can easily interpret "southernism" as separatism. Southerners, meanwhile, usually see the north as colonial. And, indeed, there exist many analogies with colonial attitudes contained in the fundamental assumption — albeit often unconscious — of superiority. Though not necessarily with conscious derogatory intent, southerners are often referred to as "slaves" (abed).

Christians are fewer than 30 per cent of the south's estimated six million people.

To this foundation have been added a host of claims and grievances. Southerners complain they are excluded from the economic and political mainstream, which is broadly true. Northerners respond that millions of northern pounds were spent in the south with little economic effect and that, during Numeiri's 16-year reign, southerners enjoyed a degree of political freedom unknown in the north — which is also broadly true.

By far the most crucial single point at issue remains the question of Islamic law (Sharia) which is totally unacceptable to the



SPLA and the vast majority of southerners. Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi came to power on a platform of abolishing the "September Laws," Numeiri's harsh and very personal version of Sharia imposed in September 1983. He himself had been imprisoned for publicly condemning them. Yet nearly one year after the coalition took office in May 1986, the Laws, though frozen, remain on the statute books. Moreover, the government has proposed that Islam, along with Christianity and what is carefully described as "custom," should form the basis of the new constitution and legal system. "Secularism has no meaning in the Sudan," Al Mahdi declared at his first press conference last April.

But "secularism" has a lot of meaning for southerners and might constitute the SPLA's only non-negotiable demand. Not only the rebels reject the Islamic-Christian "compromise" proposal. "A secular constitution would be best for the country," the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Juba, Paolino Lukudo Loro, told me recently. Many southerners say they fear that any reference to Islam in the constitution would be the thin end of the wedge of forced Islamisation and, at the very least, would confirm them as "second-class citizens."

Outside the fundamentalist National Islamic Front — commonly known as the "Muslim

Brotherhood" — it is not easy to find northerners who advocate Islamic law, especially among the professional elite. Two government ministers recently told me — privately — that they reject the Sharia. Yet, notwithstanding an assertive campaign by the Sudanese Bar Association, it is difficult for a Muslim to publicly demand a secular system. There is an astonishing lack of awareness of the importance of this issue to the south where fear of Islamisation goes deep. Many join the rebels feeling they have nothing more to lose. "It is better to die honourably than live shamefully," is a common dictum among SPLA supporters.

The north's fundamental failure to acknowledge the southern uprising's internal, Sudanese causes is amply reflected in government policy — and is the greatest barrier to solving the problem. "There's a basic block in northerners that stop them listening to southern demands," sighed one Western diplomat. "Even when they're well-intentioned, they're offensive — for instance, talking about the SPLA as mercenaries." Government verbal aggression has escalated in proportion to the SPLA's physical aggression, notably since 16 August, when rebels shot down a Sudan Airways scheduled flight to Malakal, killing all 63 people on board. "There is no way for this government to share a plat-

form with pirates and gangsters," said Culture and Information Minister Mohammed Tawfiq Ahmed in an official response to the attack. The SPLA response that "war is war" is naturally rejected by a sovereign government — especially one that is trying to solve the problem by showing that the war does not exist. Coming only two weeks after his long-awaited "summit" with the SPLA leader and former army colonel Dr. John Garang, the aircraft attack was clearly taken very personally by Al Mahdi. Peace talks were halted and the prime minister's line became to try to isolate the SPLA, simultaneously attacking Ethiopia as the main cause of the problem. "The army has seized the strategic initiative," declared Al Mahdi on January 8, dismissing claims that recent military success consisted only of normal dry-season activity. The SPLA has certainly held the initiative so far, ending each rainy season with significant territorial gains, so that, in six of the south's eight provinces, only about a dozen beleaguered towns remain under government control. Most are usually inaccessible to civilians, including rebel agencies.

A political solution remains the only option — a statement frequently made, but also contradicted, by Al Mahdi. Despite mutual displays of military strength, there can be no military solution. "They each want to talk when they have military advantage — and military advantage is a very ephemeral thing," commented one diplomat. So neither sides shows much interest in peace.

Many join the rebels feeling they have nothing more to lose.

Though alleviated in the short term by recent food convoys, this year's food situation was recently described as "very bleak" by one aid official. Starvation stalks the south, with over one million people estimated at risk in four provinces alone. This figure is accepted — though not advertised — by a government trying to show that the southern situation "is returning to normal."

But "normality" in the south has long been war or the threat of war. Devoid of a coherent political programme, the SPLA relies on traditional grievances to attract support for its aims, if not its methods. More surprisingly the government makes no attempt to woo the countless southerners whose first desire is to live in peace. For example, several hundred thousand people, surrounded in the government-held towns, receive no moral or financial support. Teachers struggling to educate a "lost generation" are paid only once every three months. Controlling access to the towns, soldiers supply black markets at astronomical prices far beyond popular reach. The suffering of civilians is reflected in the skeletal bodies of

In November, a peace mission by Sudanese church leaders raised hopes that negotiations might be resurrected. These contacts are still being pursued, along with those by the National alliance of professional associations, unions and parties which originally started negotiations moving. But the time-honoured gradual approach is also time-consuming — and the military situation moves faster. Intervened by the Communist party daily Al Meidan, the prime minister was quoted as proposing: establishing friendly relations with Ethiopia, provoking an Ethiopia-SPLA "conflict of interests," and "encouraging defections from the SPLA." The government, he expanded, would "return the south to normal," disarm all factions carrying arms against the government and make "an international diplomatic offensive" to explain Ethiopia's "responsibility" for the conflict.

The current, much-publicised army actions might just give the government the "epiphenomenal advantage" it needs to launch an internal diplomatic initiative instead — unless it falls into the trap of believing its own propaganda that a final military victory, and thereby a "solution," is almost in its grasp — Middle East International, London.

Deep differences threaten success of any new arms forum

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

VIE'NA, Austria — The Warsaw Pact has accepted a NATO invitation to discuss launching new European conventional arms talks. But an exploratory meeting Tuesday is threatened by deep East-West differences on who should attend new negotiations.

The 16-nation Atlantic alliance remains secretive about proposed participation and other details. But Western diplomats, who asked for anonymity, said Friday that NATO wants to negotiate only with the seven Warsaw Pact nations, a plan opposed by the Soviets and their allies.

Warsaw pact countries have repeatedly called for broad participation in any conventional arms talks covering all of Europe's territory. They want them open to all 35 countries that signed the Helsinki final act on European

security and cooperation.

The 35 signatories — the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and all European states except Albania — are meeting in the Austrian capital to review the Helsinki act and compliance to its provisions.

In wanting to throw open new talks on troops and weapons, the Soviet bloc countries point to the success the last Helsinki-type conference had on a related issue.

The 35 countries ended more than 30 months of negotiations in Stockholm, Sweden, last September, by adopting specific measures to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe.

NATO and Warsaw Pact nations agreed to give each other advance warning of all significant military exercises across an area of Europe stretching from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains, traditionally regarded as the geographic boundary with Asia.

Both sides hailed the accord, the first of its kind since the strategic limitation treaty, SALT II, was signed in 1979.

Yuri Kashlev, the chief Soviet delegate to the Vienna review conference, said in an interview published Friday that the Warsaw Pact will tell NATO Tuesday that new talks on conventional

weapons should be open to all Helsinki signatories.

There are ongoing talks on conventional troops and weapons, but these are restricted to the Central European theatre, and to 19 NATO and Warsaw Pact nations.

Those talks, also in Vienna, are

bogged down in their 14th year and both sides have expressed the need for new negotiations covering all of Europe.

On Tuesday, "we will ... expound our position that there are not only NATO and Warsaw treaty member states between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural mountains," Kashlev told the Hungarian Communist Party's Nepszabadsag newspaper.

Lieut. Gen. Jiri Brychta of Czechoslovakia, his country's deputy chief of staff, said Friday the Vienna review conference was the place to achieve cuts in conventional troops and weapons.

East-West differences are reflected by Soviet and U.S. choices of representation at the Tuesday meeting, to be held over breakfast at the French embassy in Vienna.

The NATO decision to press for bloc-to-bloc talks appears to represent a victory for the United

States over France, which is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's military structure.

France reportedly also had favoured broadening participation to include all 35 states involved in the Helsinki process. The differences were ironed out last week in Brussels, but no details were made public.

French diplomats in Vienna have declined comment on the reported dispute with the United States, or its outcome.

The NATO stance is sure to be unpopular with Europe's neutral and nonaligned countries, which also are pressing to be included in any new conventional arms and troop talks.

Austria's chief delegate, Rudolf Torovsky, told reporters Friday that all states party to the Helsinki accords should participate, whether or not they belong to a military alliance.



Bloody execution of Mary Queen of Scots remembered 400 years on

By Michael Wise
Reuter

FOTHERINGHAY, England — A simple metal plaque marks the spot where Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded 400 years ago. There is little other sign that the village of Fotheringhay was the scene of one of the most traumatic events in British history.

The River Nene flows placidly past the remainder of the castle keep where Scotland's Catholic ruler met death at the order of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth of England, on February 8, 1587.

The 400th anniversary is being marked around Britain with ceremonies, exhibitions and lectures, and the Catholic archbishop of Northampton will celebrate a mass in Fotheringhay's Protestant parish church for the repose of Mary's soul.

The mass in the Anglican sanctuary is a sign that the political and religious antagonism the execution inspired is fading.

For years at the start of this

century, one Scotsman made a pilgrimage here to lay a wreath on the anniversary of Mary's death but eventually had to be barred from the site because of his violent language about the reigning British royal family.

"Things have cooled down a great deal," said Gordon Donaldson, Queen Elizabeth's honorary historiographer for Scotland. "Few people treat her (Mary) as a plaster saint anymore. Not many would denounce her as a ruthless criminal."

Father David Woodard, a Catholic priest whose church is near Fotheringhay, south of Peterborough in central England, believes a tragic atmosphere lingers over the meadow that now covers the place where Mary was killed.

"I've always found it the gloomiest place ever," he said. "A shadow hangs over it."

Legend has it that Mary's son, James VI of Scotland (who also became James I of England), razed the castle out of vengeance

following the unification of the English and Scottish crowns, although villagers say its stones were gradually dragged away to construct new buildings.

An inn in the next town boasts that its oak staircase is the one Mary descended as she went to the chopping block. The outline of a crown on the balustrade was reputedly scratched into it by Mary in her final hours.

A lump of masonry, watched over by grazing sheep, is all that is left where Mary ended a 44-year-long life of romance, complex intrigue and dignified captivity after Elizabeth resolved to get rid of her rival for the English throne.

Mary's beauty and regal demeanour made her a 16th-century femme fatale who has captivated popular as well as scholarly interest until the present day.

Born to James V of Scotland and France's Mary of Guise in 1542, Mary Queen of Scots had the misfortune to be crowned while only a week old in the midst

of great religious and political uncertainty. Scotland was undergoing the shock of the Protestant reformation and English Catholics were to hail her as the rightful heir to her uncle, Henry VIII.

She had three husbands — becoming a widow at 18 after going to France for a dynastic marriage to the heir to the French throne, marrying for passion the second time round with a handsome nobleman who was later murdered and then unwisely choosing the chief suspect in the crime as her third consort.

Mary often clashed with the Scottish nobility and the fiery Calvinist preacher John Knox. Outrage over the last marriage resulted in her being deposed in favour of her infant son.

Nineteen years of imprisonment in England followed, until Elizabeth at last signed her death warrant when a Catholic plot to overthrow her with Mary's assent was uncovered. "Suffer or strike, or be struck," the English queen concluded.

Mary was first buried in Peterborough Cathedral. Her son, who succeeded Elizabeth to the English throne, moved the body to Westminster Abbey in London in 1612 and erected an imposing tomb which became a shrine for Catholics deeming her a martyr.

Many Scottish historians today contend that the religious aspect of Mary's plight has been overplayed. "Mary only became attached to the Catholic church when all else failed," said historiographer Donaldson.

"The idea that Mary was an ultra-Papist was rubbish."

Donaldson and others have argued that during the later years of her life, kinship and sovereign allegiance were the prime motivating factors for most Scots rather than religion.

"What is more important to most people was a loyalty to the crown, never mind that she's Catholic," said Dr. Michael Lynch of the University of Edinburgh.

Lynch said that historical work

about Mary in recent years has tended to focus on the day-to-day relations between Mary's royal household and her governing privy council.

"The spotlight is no longer on Mary as 'Mary the tragic queen' but on Mary as a ruler ... although there are all sorts of things that are cropping up."

Last month, the keeper of Scotland's National Portrait Gallery identified a 16th-century French court painting of a half-naked woman, entitled "Dame a sa toilette," as the queen who several years later held a rosary in her hand and whispered "Sweet Jesus" as her neck was struck three times with an axe.

The author of a recent book about Mary, historian Dr. Rosalind Marshall, swiftly sought to rebut this as a case of mistaken identity. "It is extremely unlikely that Mary," Marshall said, "with her great sense of her own majesty, would have allowed herself to be shown in this particular context."

Randa Habib's

Bitter salts

NO one could question the wisdom behind the government measures to curb imports and to promote local products, but at whose expense? It was the government, indeed, that in the boom years allowed the import of all sorts of consumer commodities and got people used to a life of affluence and a variety of goods.

In the early 1980's we used to hear a lot about standardisation and metrology and the government's drive to improve local products. Two examples of locally-produced commodities which are afforded protection are spaghetti and table salt.

Many people, including myself, complain that locally-produced pastas, no matter how long you boil them, never seem to be cooked. I asked a pasta manufacturer: why? Basic materials, imported by the Ministry of Supply, are of poor quality and that produces low-standard outputs, he replied.

Table salt is another bitter issue. One year ago, there are reports that a JD 1 million factory in Azraq was being set up with German assistance. Now that table salt imports have been banned, it seems that our manufacturers have discovered a "formula" for producing brown salt. I, for one, use the coffee grinder to reduce the big chunks of salt into a powder. One has to improve in these conditions.

Protection of local products through banning imports only seems to be "healthy" for factory-owners, and unless the controls of standardisation and metrology are strictly applied, the result will not be in the best interests of the consumer or the country. There are many people who preach that if protection is to be accorded to our industries they should earn it first. The only alternative would be to let the market forces of competition dictate the winner. Unfortunately, with Jordan's limited population, competition is not possible when many products are monopolised by one or occasionally two factories.

While we appreciate the financial and economic constraints that dictate protectionism, there can be no justification, moral or material, for low-standard products.

Legal challenge to Mafia faces problems

By Barry Moody
Reuter

PALERMO, Sicily — A year ago this week the Italian state launched its biggest assault on the Mafia, bringing nearly 470 alleged gangsters to trial in the heart of their Sicilian fiefdom.

The trial was the first time any such case had been tried in Palermo, the Mafia's central power base. It was widely seen as a chance to cripple the centuries-old criminal society, which is embedded in the fabric of Sicily but has spread its tentacles all over Italy, the United States and elsewhere.

This week's anniversary passed in a sharply different atmosphere, with much of the early optimism dashed. Public interest in the case, which created long queues outside the specially built, heavily fortified courtroom in the early days, has largely dissipated.

The public galleries are almost deserted and press coverage is sparse.

the law must be passed. Giuseppe Ayala, one of the two trial prosecutors, says politicians must accept their responsibility.

"If the Italian political class does not want these people let out of jail, it knows what it must do. There are no alternatives. It is essential," he told Reuters.

Like other magistrates and police, Ayala says that if there is public disappointment in the trial it is because the damage it would inflict on the Mafia was widely overestimated.

"Much public opinion, even a majority, seemed to believe it would be a decisive blow. But we never believed this. We always said it would be a very important stage but part of a process which assumed other steps."

Antonino Nicci, chief of the Palermo police investigation branch, told Reuters: "This is an important moment in the struggle but it does not represent the defeat of the Mafia. The trial inflicted a heavy blow but the Mafia is not in full decline yet. Nevertheless it is without a doubt weaker than before."

Ayala said that investigators did not have enough information to establish how much damage had been done to the Mafia but "I have the impression that the organisation is continuing... we are not surprised, we knew it would not finish with the maximal."

Another senior Palermo police officer, who asked not to be named, said the case had a deep symbolic significance, demonstrating to Sicilians the state's determination to combat the organisation on its own ground.

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Thousands of school teachers fired in Chile

By Eva Vergara
The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Thousands of teachers across Chile will be heading for unemployment lines as the 1987 school year begins.

The military government fired nearly 8,000 elementary and high school teachers, more than 5 per cent of the nation's total, in January and February, the Southern Hemisphere's summer vacation time.

The government claims the firings are necessary because of a large teacher surplus that will top 40,000 by the end of the decade. Because of this, it says, the firings will have no real impact on the quality of education at the nation's 12,000 public and municipal schools.

But leaders of teachers' unions and other associations claim the real reasons for the firings stem from politics and economics. They also dispute the government's contention that the dismissals will not seriously harm the quality of education of some 3 million students.

Education Minister Sergio Gaete said in early January, when the firings first started, that 4,000 to 6,000 teachers would lose their jobs. But five weeks later, more than 7,700 had already been fired.

"It's going to be chaos at most schools as a result of these firings," said Jorge Pavez, president of Chile's National School Teachers Trade Union. The school year begins March 9.

Fernando Azula, another teachers' union leader, said the firings are politically motivated, since "a large majority of those fired are critical of the military government."

Oswaldo Verdugo, president of

the Chilean Professional Association of School Teachers, said the firings will have a negative impact on education because they will create "an atmosphere of permanent fear" among teachers.

"A teacher who feels his job is in danger will probably have very little to deliver to his students," he said. "Teachers will become mere bureaucrats instead of educators."

The government claims it is firing teachers who lack an academic degree or are nearing the legal retirement age.

But Verdugo said many of his colleagues who have lost their jobs were fired because they are active in the trade unions.

He said in an interview that more than 40 per cent of the teachers fired have their degrees.

Azula said by firing the teachers, the government also is seeking to reduce the fiscal deficit to meet conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for new financial resources for Chile. The nation has a \$20 billion foreign debt.

For decades, education in Chile had been almost entirely in the hands of the state. But under the 13-year-old military regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, authorities have encouraged private education, and all public schools are being transferred from the ministry of education to municipalities.

Said Azula: "In fact, the government is resigning its duties in this field, leaving the responsibility of educating our children in the hands of the private sector. This is a mercenary approach to education, because private schools are supposed to earn profits."



A teacher hits back during a demonstration last week in Santiago

ty of educating our children in the hands of the private sector. This is a mercenary approach to education, because private schools are supposed to earn profits."

To encourage private schools, the government subsidises them at an average of \$10 a month per student. The subsidies are suspended when the students fail to advance to a higher grade.

U.S. girl pianist continues entertaining

By Carolyn Lumsden
The Associated Press

WEST BOYLSTON, Massachusetts — An 11-year-old girl who spoke her first word at 1 month, quoted Shakespeare at 1 year and starred in the movie "Dune" at 7 has found a new challenge as an entertainer.

Alicia Witt now runs through everything from Mozart sonatas to Broadway ballads every Friday night at a local dinner to pay for her budding career as a concert pianist.

Her long red hair trailing below the piano bench, she sits with ruler-like straightness, plunking away at Cole Porter tunes one minute, a Tchaikovsky piece the next. Sometimes she is joined by her 9-year-old brother, Ian, also an award-winning pianist.

Besides show business, Alicia's list of ambitions includes being a drugstore clerk, living on a farm, and raising four children, "be-

cause that's a lucky number."

Her mother, Diane Witt, said Alicia has won every piano competition she entered after only three years of classical training. But on the salary of her father, who teaches science at a junior high school, the family cannot afford to travel to faraway contests, Mrs. Witt said.

The family's tight budget has not stopped the voracious appetite for knowledge Alicia has shown since she was a baby.

Her mother said Alicia said "Hi" at 1 month and began reading at 7 months. At 2 years old, she knew the names of every member of the U.S. cabinet and shocked an Internal Revenue Service agent who visited the house by grabbing a tax guide and reading it aloud, Mrs. Witt said.

"Sometimes it frightened you, that a child this young could do these things," said Elizabeth Harrington, who lived near the Witts

until a few years ago.

A published photo of the toddler engrossed in a women's magazine led to articles about her talents and appearances on television shows.

Mrs. Witt said she taught Alicia at home because her own experience teaching large classes of children of varying abilities taught her "school can really destroy all that curiosity."

Alicia decides day to day what to study, whether it is a chapter from her mother's college trigonometry textbooks or a new piano technique, Mrs. Witt said.

Piano judges have been impressed with her talents.

"Superior performances in style, grasp of each piece, interpretation," wrote M. Freiberg, a retired professor of music at Tufts University, in an evaluation during a statewide contest. "Superior technique, tone, intonation and more... superior stage presence. A real pianist."

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC



When instruments couldn't pinpoint natural-gas leaks 18 feet underground in Canada, German shepherds, working in sub-zero temperatures over almost 100 miles of frozen ground, found more than 150 leaks.



With the rise of Christianity, the church banned public baths, and for centuries in the Middle Ages most people stank.



On May 1, 1986, five men and a woman became the first people since 1908 to reach the North Pole with dogsled without resupply.

Drawings by Shelia Welsby
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Coghlan wins indoor mile, McRae outsprints Lewis

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan used a strong finishing kick to win his fourth consecutive indoor mile race of the season, while Lee McRae's sizzling start carried him to victory over Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson in the men's dash in the U.S. Olympic Invitational Track and Field Meet at the Meadowlands Arena.

In addition, Jackie Joyner-Kersey scored a rare double, winning the women's high hurdles and long jump.

Coghlan, the fastest indoor miler in history — he set the mark of 3 minutes, 49.78 seconds in this meet four years ago — was clocked in 3:56.83. The race Saturday night was slow, because the expected pacesetter, Charles Cheruiyot of Kenya, did not go out quickly.

The victory was a record fourth for Coghlan in the race's 18-year history. His previous triumphs had come in 1980, 1983 and 1985. He had shared the meet record of three victories with Marty Li-quori, the winner in 1969-70-71. McRae, a junior at the University of Pittsburgh and holder of the world indoor best in the 55-metre dash, beat his two more heralded opponents in 6.04 seconds, the fastest in the world this year.

Joyner-Kersey, the world record holder in the heptathlon and named the outstanding women's track and field athlete of the year for 1986, led all the way in win-

ning the women's 55-metre hurdles in 7.45 and took the long jump at 21 feet, 10 inches.

Her winning jump came on her first attempt and broke the mark of 21-8, 3-4 set by Valt Ionescu of Romania and Carol Lewis in 1985.

Lewis finished second this time at 21-6.

Joyner-Kersey competed in the hurdles and long jump at nearly the same time — with the long jump starting five minutes before the hurdles heats. Because of her big first jump, however, she was able to get some rest, passing two of her six attempts.

Her hurdles time smashed the meet record of 7.46, set by Stephanie Hightower in 1984. Meanwhile, Greg Foster continued unbeaten this season, winning his fifth consecutive high hurdles race, capturing the 55-metre event in 7.01 with a powerful finish.

Canada's Mark McKoy got off to a blazing start in the hurdles and led until the final barrier, when Foster overtook him. NCAA champion Gwen Torr-

ence of Georgia took the women's 55-metre dash in a meet-record 6.61, taking command about halfway through the race, easily beating runner-up Merlene Ottey-Page of Jamaica. The previous meet record of 6.66 was set by Alice Brown in 1985.

Maryanne Torrellas, a mother of three from Connecticut, set a world indoor best of 6:01.16 in the women's 1,500-metre race walk. Her time was more than 27 seconds faster than the previous mark of 6:28.46, set by Giuliana Salce of Italy in 1986.

A world indoor best also was broken in the men's 1,500-metre race walk, as Tim Lewis clocked 5:17.17, reducing the previous mark by more than five seconds. Austria's Martin Toporek had set the former mark of 5:22.7 in 1983.

Michael Conley, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist, won a hotly contested triple jump. World record holder Patrik Sjoberg of Sweden could do no better than fourth, at 7-3, 3-4.

Sjoberg had two possible excuses — he had competed in Madrid Thursday and he is not accustomed to jumping on the American indoor boarded surfaces, doing most of his jumping on the bouncier European tracks.

Other men's winners included Paul Donovan of Ireland in the 3,000 metre in 7:47.95.

In other women's events, Lynn Williams of Canada captured the mile in 4:35.35, edging Britain's Wendy Sly.

Finn Salonen fights off challenges to win rally

KARLSTAD, Sweden (R) — Finland's Timo Salonen held on to his lead to win the Swedish World Championship Motor Rally by 23 seconds, fighting off a challenge from Sweden's Mikael Eriksson.

Salonen, who won here when he became world champion two years ago, took the lead from Eriksson at the 17th special stage Saturday morning and held it throughout. En route to a total time of four hours 11 minutes over the 26 stages covering 400 kilometres, he won six of Saturday's 12 stages in his Mazda 323.

Eriksson, in a Lancia Delta, lost 37 seconds on Salonen on that crucial 17th stage.

"It was a hard fight all day, and speeds were very high," Salonen said, adding: "This was a big victory, and an important win for the team."

"It was the first win for the four-wheel drive, turbo-charged Mazdas, made in specification to new rules introduced this year."

Officials said the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) had examined all cars carefully before the race started, Friday, and spot checks were made by FISA officials as late as Saturday morning.

Behind the leading duo, reigning world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland rose to third place, 15 seconds ahead of Swede Ingvar Carlsson. Kankkunen's Lancia was 1.46 behind Salonen. Carlsson was 2.01 behind in a Mazda.

Markku Alen, another Finnish driver, nearly lost his fifth place at the final stage, when his Lancia developed engine problems and lost 1.16 to stage winner Eriksson.

Kankkunen took the world championship lead on 27 points after having finished second in this year's first event in Monte Carlo. Italian Lancia driver Massimo Biasion, winner there, shares second place with Salonen on 20 points.

Holyfield floors challenger four times to retain title

RENO, Nevada (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) junior heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield knocked down challenger Henry Tillman four times on the way to a seventh round victory.

Holyfield, bronze medalist in the light-heavyweight division at the 1984 Olympics, sent fellow-American Tillman to the canvas the first time 15 seconds into the second round of their scheduled 15-round fight on Saturday.

Tillman, heavyweight gold medalist in 1984 and fighting at 189 pounds (85.73 kilograms), never fully recovered and the champion battered him almost at will for the rest of the fight.

Holyfield, who weighed 188.5 pounds (85.5 kilograms), first dropped Tillman in the seventh with a left-right to the head for a count of eight. Another left-right to the head seconds later put Tillman down for a count of nine.

A left hook to the head, one of the countless Holyfield landed, floored the 26-year-old Tillman

for the last time one minute and 43 seconds into the round.

Under WBA rules the referee had to stop the fight, giving the 24-year-old champion a record of 14-0, with 10 victories inside the distance. Tillman's record drops to 14-2.

Holyfield, who earned \$200,000, said after the fight: "The plan was to put the jab on him and wear him down and he wouldn't box and then I'd take him out. I thought I could take him early. I'm more effective against fighters who come in to me."

Holyfield's manager, Lou Duva, said the fighter would move up to the heavyweight division in about a year.

Tillman, who received \$50,000 for the fight, said he had similar plans.

"I should have boxed more, but I abandoned all that. I figured... I could muscle him, but it worked to my disadvantage and to his advantage. I stood too much. They (his corner) told me to box."

Austrian, Italian take 1st at Nordic championships

OBERSDORF, West Germany (AP) — Andreas Felder of Austria and Marco Albarello of Italy earned the first gold medals for their countries Sunday at the Nordic Ski World Championships.

Felder took the 90-metre hill ski jumping gold medal with jumps of 110 metres and 112.5 metres for a total of 216.0 points.

Norway's Vegard Opas picked up silver with 208.3 points. Ernst Vettori of Austria was third with 207.0. Yugoslavia's Matjaz Zupanc grabbed fourth with 206.0 points.

Earlier Sunday, Albarello sur-

prised the field with his best ever individual finish. He skied through a light snow to win the 15-kilometre cross-country race in 43 minutes, 1.8 seconds.

Thomas Wassberg of Sweden, the 30-kilometre gold medalist three days earlier, was second in 43:08.6. Mikhail Deviatarov of the Soviet Union clinched the bronze in 43:09.6, with three more Soviet racers in the top 10.

Albarello, a 26-year-old soldier from Courmayeur, won Italy's first medal of these championships. It was only the second gold ever for Italy in a world or Olympic Nordic ski event.

Connors to meet Edberg in U.S. indoor final

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Jimmy Connors used his experience to beat Sweden's young Mikael Pernfors 6-7 (6-8), 7-5, 6-3 to earn a spot opposite top-seeded Stefan Edberg in the U.S. indoor tennis championship final.

The 34-year-old Connors defeated Pernfors, 23, with a steady base line game and a flashy assortment of shots at the net during the two-hour, 47-minute match on Saturday night.

Edberg was extended to a second-set tie-breaker by Brad Gilbert, but was in control with his serve-and-volley game during much of his 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) victory.

Connors, ranked eighth in the world, will be after his eighth U.S. indoor singles title when he meets second-ranked Edberg in the noon CST Championship match.

"I'm on a roll," Connors said. "I'm hitting the ball now as well as I've ever hit the ball. I'm moving and working and concentrating. I took a layoff and I've come back ready to play."

Edberg, who has lost five of six of his previous meetings with Connors, said he feels his game is much better now.

"I'm playing more consistently. I'm a little bit quicker and I'm playing some of the big points harder than last year. It should be quite interesting tomorrow," Edberg said.

Gilbert agreed that Edberg will be very tough to beat.

"He's moving better than I've ever seen him move and I don't think there's anyone in the game now that has a better first volley or overhead," Gilbert said.

Pakistan faces difficult task against India

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Pakistan, 16 for one at the close of the fourth day Sunday, faces the stupendous task of rattling up 339 runs in 267 minutes and 20 mandatory overs if it is to win the second cricket test match against India here at Eden Gardens.

Rameez Raja with seven and night watchman Salim Yusuf with four were at the crease at draw of stumps.

Earlier, India had declared at 181 for three in their second innings.

With star batsman Shoaib Mohammed already in the pavilion, Pakistan will have to take great care at the crease facing the Indian duo of skipper Kapil Dev and Roger Binny.

Pakistan added only 14 runs to its overnight score of 215 for seven wickets. Its 229 runs, which came in 496 minutes off 108.1 overs, put it 174 runs in arrears in reply to India's 403.

Though Pakistan could not check the flow of runs when Indian opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Arun Lal came on to begin the second knock, the pacemen Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Salim Jaffer were able to put pressure on them.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wimbledon downs Charlton in soccer

LONDON (AP) — Wimbledon warmed up for next weekend's F.A. Cup fifth round tie with favoured Everton by beating Charlton Athletic 2-0 in an English First Division soccer match played Sunday. In a four match, Kevin Gage opened the score with a 29th-minute penalty and Nigel Winterburn added a second goal nine minutes from the end. The result did not affect the leading placings in the first division but plunged Charlton into greater relegation trouble.

Soviet runner breaks Coe's record

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet runner Igor Lotorev set a world indoor record for the 1,000 metres on Saturday, clocking 2 minutes, 18 seconds at the Soviet Winter Cup athletics competition. The TASS news agency reported. The previous record, set by Sebastian Coe of Britain, was 2:18.58. TASS said.

Bulgarian Donkova sets hurdle mark

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova has run 7.74 seconds to set a world record for women in the 60-metre hurdles, Bulgaria's state news agency BTA reported. BTA, in a dispatch received in Vienna on Sunday, said Donkova set the new mark Saturday at an indoor track meet in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. BTA said the previous record of 7.75 seconds belonged to B. Jahn, of East Germany.

Italian takes new WBC title

LUCCA, Italy (AP) — Unbeaten Italian Francesco Damiani of Italy captured the newly-established World Boxing Council junior heavyweight title by knocking out American Eddie Gregg in the first round Saturday night. Damiani, 28, shook Gregg with two powerful right hooks and finished him before the second minute of the scheduled 12-round bout with a combination series. Spanish referee Tony Perez stopped the fight as the 33-year-old New Yorker was defenceless.

Skating record broken twice in a day

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Geir Karlstad of Norway regained the men's world speed skating record in the 10,000 metres at the World Championships Sunday, only minutes after Leo Visser of the Netherlands broke it. Karlstad was clocked at 14 minutes, 3.92 seconds, almost eight seconds faster than Visser's 14 minutes, 11.63 seconds. Almost exactly a year ago, Karlstad finished the 10,000-metre in 14 minutes 12.14 seconds, also a record at the time.

Norman sets tourney record

MELBOURNE (R) — World number one Greg Norman, playing at his menacing best, stormed to a nine-stroke win and his fourth Australian Masters title at Huntingdale Golf Club. The British Open champion's 19-under-par 273 broke the tournament record of 11 under set by West German Bernhard Langer two years ago. But bogeys at the last two holes for a final round of 70 deprived him of a personal best winning margin — "his biggest" to date is 10 shots. Queenslanders filled the first three places with Peter Senior firing a last-round two-under-par 71 to finish 10 under on 282, edging Vaughan Somers by one stroke.

Norwegian wins \$40,000 ski race

SNOW SUMMIT, California (AP) — Jarle Halsnes of Norway defeated his brother in the finals Saturday to win the giant slalom event at the \$40,000 Winterfest professional ski race. Halsnes edged his brother, Jarle, by .246 of a second in the second run to win the \$5,000 first prize. Jarle had taken the first race of the finals by .178 of a second. The sixth event on the U.S. pro tour continues Sunday with the finals of the slalom race.

Mandlikova upset by Garrison in California

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — In a match that included a point penalty, an injury time out and a brief flood of tears, top-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia was upset in the semi-finals of the \$150,000 California Women's Tennis Tournament.

The favourite lost to third-seed Zina Garrison of the United States 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, in two hours and 15 minutes on Saturday night.

Garrison will meet unseeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany in the finals.

Hanika defeated an ailing Kathy Rinaldi of the United States, the second seed, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, in the other semi-final.

Mandlikova made a shaky start, surviving three break points in the first game, but it was not until the ninth game that the American was able to break Man-

World records tumble at skating tourney

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Soviet skater Nikolai Gulyaev won the men's World Speedskating Championships on Sunday, an event marked by a spate of shattered world records on all but one distance.

Gulyaev, 21, won the 1,500-metre event, setting a new world record, finished second on the 500 metres and 5,000 metres and seventh on the 10-kilometre event.

Oleg Bozoyev of the Soviet Union held the second-place position in the final standings, while Michael Hadschieff of Austria was third.

World records were broken on the 1,500 metres, where Gulyaev set the new standard at 1 minute 52.70 seconds, the 5,000 metres, with Dutchman Leo Visser clocking 6 minutes 47.01 seconds on Saturday, while Geir Karlstad of Norway broke the 10,000-metre record, finishing in 14 minutes 03.92 seconds.

It was the first-ever World Speedskating Championship held on an indoor 400-metre track.

During the 10-kilometre event, Visser successfully attacked Karlstad's year-old record of 14 minutes 12.14 seconds, finishing in 14 minutes 11.63 seconds.

INVITATION TO TENDER GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR LOCALLY RECRUITED EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDANTS UNRWA - JORDAN

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Jordan announces an invitation to tender for a group medical insurance plan to cover its locally recruited employees and their dependants.

The plan covers medical treatment by doctors in their private clinics or at the employees' residences. It also covers treatments at hospitals including surgical operations in accordance with conditions and benefits established in the Agency's Special Insurance Plan.

Interested insurance companies which have experience in handling similar projects are invited to obtain copies of the forms of invitation to tender and the tender special conditions from the Field Personnel Officer in the Field Office HQ, Tla' Al Ali near Rashid Tla' Secondary Boys Sch., behind Utaibi Gas Station, P.O. Box 484, Amman. These tender documents are available at JD 20 which is non-refundable.

Tenderers must submit with their tenders a bank guarantee of JD 50,000. Tenders not supported by this bank guarantee will not be considered.

The agency will notify successful and unsuccessful tenderers of its decision with respect to their tenders as soon as possible after the tenders are opened. It reserves the right to cancel the tender, to reject any or all tenders and to award the contract without disclosing the reason or reasons therefore.

Tenders will be accepted in sealed envelopes to be put in the tender box in the office of General Services Officer at the agency's office at the above address up to 11.00 hours on Thursday 5 March 1987.

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Irish polls could produce cliffhanger

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland's general election campaign is heading towards a close finish with frontrunner Charles Haughey's popularity slipping away while his two main rivals move closer to coalition.

Irish politics in the 1980s has been dominated by two sharply contrasting characters — a blarney self-made millionaire Haughey at the head of Fianna Fail and an unassuming intellectual Garret Fitzgerald leading Fine Gael.

Each has been prime minister twice. Polling day on Tuesday looked like being another head-to-head battle until Fianna Fail's dissident Desmond O'Malley emerged at the head of the break-away Progressive Democrats as a kingmaker out to break the two-party mould.

An opinion poll in the Sunday Independent showed how close the contest could be. The opposition Fianna Fail party was tipped to win 45 per cent, Prime Minister Fitzgerald's Fine Gael 30 per cent and the Progressive Democrats 13 per cent.

No Irish government has been

re-elected since 1969. Mr. Fitzgerald, deeply unpopular for failing to revive Ireland's debt-ridden economy, looked doomed when he called the election last month.

But he has whittled away Mr. Haughey's commanding opinion poll lead and dropped a campaign bombshell on Saturday when he called on Fine Gael backers to make the Progressive Democrats their second choice under Ireland's complex proportional representation system.

It was the strongest official hint so far of a new political alliance in Ireland though both he and Mr. O'Malley stressed in separate statements there was no question of a pre-election pact.

Both agree on the need for belt-tightening to combat runaway public spending and they have also each accused Mr.

Haughey of being ambiguous and ambivalent over Northern Ireland, which has emerged as a late election issue.

Anglo-Irish accord

Mr. Fitzgerald's greatest achievement during four years in office was negotiating the 1985 Anglo-Irish accord which gave Dublin a consultative voice in the running of the volatile British province, scene of sectarian strife between Protestants and Catholics.

Mr. Haughey has expressed constitutional reservations about the accord, objecting in principle to an Irish government accepting British sovereignty over any part of this divided island.

IRA's chances

Another ingredient in this election has been Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is fighting to end British rule in

Northern Ireland.

It has abandoned its 65-year-old policy of abstentionism and pledged to take up any seats it might win this time.

Forbidden to appear on state radio or television under an anti-subversive broadcasting ban, Sinn Fein has opened its own pirate radio station in Dublin to broadcast its revolutionary message. Still, its chances of any seats are slim.

Economic issues

The main theme of the campaign has been the economy with one in five jobless, thousands of young people queuing to emigrate to the United States, the national debt doubling in four years and income tax up to 58 per cent.

Political commentators have issued dire warnings about Ireland ending up as Western Europe's only Third World nation with its main export being people.

Bangladesh set for strikes

DHAKA (R) — Opposition parties have called for a nationwide six-hour strike on Monday as fundamentalist students launch a week of protests because two youths died in bomb blasts.

Opposition leaders Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina have called the strike to demand the resignation of President Hosain Mohammad Ershad.

"Ershad must go now because he has proved himself unworthy of the presidency... by failing to maintain law and order and to fulfil people's aspirations," Sheikh Hasina told a rally of her Awami League on Sunday.

Begum Khaleda said: "He should bow out as a disgraced ruler for he has pushed Bangladesh to the brink of economic collapse, ruined politically, the system and scuttled efforts to restore a flawless democracy."

The opposition campaign against Mr. Ershad came amid angry protests over increased transport fares, in which police killed one student and more than 100 were injured.

Thousands of passengers were stranded when transport owners took their vehicles off the roads after students and anti-government activists burned nearly 20 vehicles and damaged more than 50.

Two fundamentalist Muslim students were killed and nearly 100 wounded on Saturday in this year's worst political violence.

Police said two students died and 50 were hurt on Saturday when petrol bombs were tossed at a demonstration being staged by the militant Islamic Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamat-e-Islami party, at the southern port city of Chittagong.

Shibir President Syed Abdullah Mohammad Tahir told a news conference Saturday night that the bombs were hurled by pro-government students and vowed to avenge the killings.

Chittagong remained tense overnight and police said authorities had told them to reinforce the town to prevent further violence.

Barnala sacks minister for supporting priests

NEW DELHI (R) — Punjab Agriculture Minister Harbhajan Singh Sandhu was dismissed from the state cabinet on Sunday for having complied with an edict of Sikh priests by joining a new Sikh party opposed to the state government.

Reports said Governor Sidhhartha Shankar Ray dismissed Mr. Sandhu on the advice of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala for joining the unified Akali Dal party, dominated by Mr. Barnala's hardline opponents.

The speaker of the state legislature had served a notice on Mr. Sandhu demanding that he explain why he should not also be disqualified from that body for defecting to another party, according to the reports.

Under an Indian law, a member of parliament or a state legislature loses his seat once he defects to a rival party.

Embattled Barnala said Saturday most of his supporters in the

115-member state assembly had defied an ultimatum from the high priests of Sikhdom and were backing his bid to stay on in power.

Mr. Barnala, the president of the moderate ruling Akali Dal, had turned down an ultimatum to dissolve his party and join the unified Akali Dal.

The five priests, who wield spiritual and temporal authority over the 18 million Sikhs, excommunicated Mr. Barnala on Wednesday for defying their edict.

Mr. Barnala has denied a statement by the priests that up to 17 of his 47 supporters in the Punjab legislature had deserted him in response to the edict.

The 63-year-old chief minister told reporters in the state capital, Chandigarh, that there had been no large scale desertions from his party.

"My government and party are intact," he said.

Pro-U.S. Centam leaders meet on new peace drive

SAN JOSE (R) — Four Central American presidents were to meet Sunday to discuss a new regional peace proposal that diplomats say calls for a truce between U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contra rebels and the Sandinista government.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has not been invited to join Presidents Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, Jose Azcona Hoyo of Honduras and Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, all U.S. allies, and Guatemalan leader Vinicio Cerezo, who professes neutrality.

The initiative by Mr. Arias focuses on solutions for civil strife in Nicaragua, which the three pro-U.S. countries criticise as the major source of regional instability.

Costa Rica and Honduras have refused to talk to Nicaragua until it withdraws an International Court case accusing them of helping anti-Sandinista rebels.

Western diplomats say Nicaragua was also excluded to isolate it diplomatically and to form a common stand to present to the leftist Sandinista government. U.S. officials seem pleased by the exclusion.

The plan sidesteps the Contadora peace process, which has been bogged down by squabbling between Nicaragua and pro-U.S. countries but echoes some of its major points.

It is unclear how much support the plan will win from either side of the Nicaraguan conflict, or whether the United States would back a ceasefire for rebels to whom it has just granted \$100 million.

Nicaragua has condemned the meeting, denouncing U.S. allies as "neo-colonialists of the United States" who they would not allow to "lecture Nicaragua about democracy."

"It looks bad if they're all three but one," said one U.S. official.

Washington probing secret contract to support contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department is investigating allegations that its secret contract with a public-relations firm that dealt with Nicaraguan rebels may have violated laws against federal lobbying, a spokesman said Saturday.

The department awarded a \$276,186 contract to International Business Communications (IBC). It initially was marked secret but recently was declassified. The contract covered the budget year beginning Oct. 1, 1985, and IBC signed another \$90,000 contract for "media consulting services" with the State Department on April 1, 1985.

Sources have told AP the firm worked with then-White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver North to rally support for giving military aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua. That raises questions about whether the activity may have breached a 1948 law that prohibits spending federal money

"directly or indirectly" to influence votes by Congress.

The State Department's inspector general was asked to investigate the matter, according to a statement, adding there would be no further comment until the conclusion of the probe.

IBC hosted meetings to plan a \$1-million pro-contra ad campaign and provided information for the ad production company, the Baltimore-based Robert Goodman Agency, the firm's Adam Goodman told AP.

The ad campaign was organised by Washington fund-raiser Carl "Spitz" Channel, who government and contra officials have said also worked with Lieutenant Colonel North. The officials said Col. North, who was a senior aide on President Ronald Reagan's National Security Council, also met often with the IBC's Richard Miller and Francis Gomez to discuss public-relations strategies for the contras.

Pretoria reports successful test of ship-to-ship missile

PRETORIA (AP) — The South African navy conducted two successful tests of its scorpion ship-to-ship missiles last week, demolishing two surface targets with direct hits, naval headquarters said Saturday.

The missiles were launched over the horizon from Minister-class strike craft and sent up two-kilometre-high water columns when they hit the targets, the navy said in a statement.

"Both targets in fact completely disintegrated and sank within seconds..." it said. "Such was the force of the blast that no debris remained in the area."

The reliability of the strike craft's weapons systems.

The 62-metre vessels, built in Durban and based there and at Simonstown near Cape Town, have a top speed of over 30 knots and carry six Scorpions apiece.

Each ship carries an average seven officers and 40 crew, two 76-millimetre guns, two 20-millimetre machine guns and four 12.7-millimetre machine guns, according to the South African Press Association (SAPA).

At least eight of the vessels have been commissioned from Durban's Sandock Austral shipyard between 1977 and 1983, SAPA said.

Deadlock said broken in Sri Lankan peace talks

COLOMBO (AP) — Senior government sources reported Sunday a breakthrough in stalled efforts to negotiate an end to four years of ethnic strife.

It also said army operations against Tamil insurgents were ending and a fuel blockade against the rebel-dominated north was likely to be lifted. No date was set.

But Tamil militants in their northern stronghold of Jaffna city told AP they expected the army to launch a major offensive to recapture Jaffna. They warned of aerial bombardment and heavy civilian casualties.

"What is the point in talking when the government is bent on a military solution?" asked "Kiran," a commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful rebel group of the Tamil minority.

The "Tigers" are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland to be called Eelam in the north and east, where most Tamils in this island nation live. But they indicate they would settle for sweeping autonomy and the merger of the north and east.

Conflicting reports have fuelled confusion over the political situation and efforts to get the

peace process restarted. India withdrew more than two months ago, saying the Sri Lanka government was not sincere about ending the conflict, which has claimed 5,000 lives in four years.

Telephone lines to Jaffna have been disconnected and there was no way to confirm official reports or talk to citizens about the situation.

Reports said that an influential Indian journalist was mediating between the government and the rebels who have headquarters in south India. No details were available on Sunday.

Sources, who spoke to AP on the condition of anonymity, said peace efforts involving the Indian government would resume because President Junius R. Jayewardene has responded positively to several conditions by India for its renewed participation and its pressure on the Tigers to talk.

India asked Mr. Jayewardene to accept Dec. 19 proposals as a basis for India-mediated talks with Tamil militants, to cease military operations against rebels in the north and east and to lift a fuel and economic blockade against the northern Jaffna peninsula.

U.S. aid package for Pakistan hits stumbles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's \$4-billion aid package for Pakistan poses a dilemma for Congress as members try to balance concerns about the country's nuclear programme and drug record against its assistance to Afghan rebels.

"We're going to take a very careful look" at the aid proposals "with a view toward determining the extent to which they advance basic American interests," said Representative Stephen J. Solarz, an opposition Democrat and chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia.

A big issue will be reports that Pakistan is on the verge of developing — or has already developed — the capability to explode a nuclear bomb. Some also are concerned about Pakistan's role as a major source of illegal heroin into the United States and the country's record on human rights.

At the same time, there is strong support in Congress for the Afghan guerrillas who have

used Pakistan as a staging ground for their seven-year-old battle against the Kabul government supported by the Soviet Union. Moreover, three million Afghan refugees have settled in Pakistan.

Congress reportedly has approved more than \$600 million in secret aid to the Afghan rebels this fiscal year, according to Andrew Elva of the Federation for American-Afghan Action, a group which lobbies for the rebels.

Some observers predict the aid package for Pakistan with more than 100 million people may hit roadblocks in Congress.

"It's not going to be complete smooth sailing... that's fair to say," said a Senate Foreign Relations Committee aide who spoke on condition he not be identified by name.

"The aid package is in trouble," said Leonard S. Spector, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who has written about Pakistan's nuclear programme.

U.S. 'pressuring' small states to maintain ties with Taiwan

PEKING (R) — The United States pressures Panama and other small countries to maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not China, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Democratic Party of Panama told reporters Sunday.

Raul Montenegro, a member of Panama's legislative assembly, said a majority of its members favoured establishing relations with Peking.

Panama is one of only 23 countries, most of them in Central and South America, that recognise Taiwan as the sole legitimate government of China.

Mr. Montenegro said he hoped the fact that Democrats were now in the majority in the U.S. Senate would help relieve Panama of this pressure and allow his country to have relations with Peking.

Mr. Montenegro is part of a delegation of legislative assembly members visiting China, the second such visit within seven

months.

The delegates have met several Chinese leaders, including President Li Xianmin.

A Central American diplomat said Panama was one of Taiwan's most important diplomatic partners in Central America, with substantial private Chinese investment there, especially in the free trade zone at Colon.

It is part of China's diplomatic offensive against Taiwan to isolate it internationally. In 1985 Bolivia and Nicaragua both switched recognition to Peking from Taipei.

The nationalist government in Taiwan, driven there after defeat by the Communist on the mainland in 1949, has said repeatedly it will not change its 38-year-old policy of calling itself the Republic of China.

The United States recognised Peking in 1979 but maintains unofficial trade and commercial ties with Taiwan.

Top party official dismissed in Ukraine

MOSCOW (R) — A Communist Party official in the Soviet Ukraine has been dismissed following the unlawful arrest of a reporter who exposed abuses of power, Ukrainian party leader Vladimir Shcherbitsky said Sunday.

Mr. Shcherbitsky, also a member of the ruling Soviet party politburo, said in the party newspaper Pravda that Boris Gocharenko, party chief for the Voroshilovgrad region, had been sacked after "gross violations" of the law in the region.

These included the arrest on boogyming charges of reporter Viktor Berkhin in the city of Voroshilovgrad last July. It followed publication of an article in which he revealed abuses of power by police and local officials, he said.

The dismissal of Mr. Gocharenko, 60, a member of the Communist Party Central Committee in Moscow, followed the sacking last month of A. Dichenko, a senior Ukrainian KGB security police officer, for his role in Mr. Berkhin's arrest.

Mr. Gocharenko, Voroshilovgrad party chief since December 1971, had earlier been implicated by Pravda in allowing widespread corruption.

Mr. Shcherbitsky said in a front-page article that several other officials, including Voroshilovgrad city party chief O. Kotlyar and R. Zverev, the head of the region's city council, had been severely reprimanded.

Pravda said no action had been taken on Mr. Berkhin's arrest for more than four months.

British papers question White House competence

LONDON (AP) — Two London weeklies ran front-page stories on Sunday casting doubt on the competence of the White House under U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The conservative Sunday Express reported that the president was "losing his grip... some well-placed observers in the Washington administration believe he is unlikely to serve out the remaining part of his presidency."

The liberal Observer said Mr. Reagan "is preparing this weekend for disastrous news" about the arms deal with Iran.

"The Tower Commission... is now expected to accuse the White House of gross incompetence — and of a possible cover-up of vital information," said the Observer.

Mr. Reagan, leaving for a weekend at Camp David, Maryland, responded "no" to a shouted question on whether there had been any cover-up.

And the New York Times quoted an unidentified senior government official as saying the commission uncovered "quite serious discrepancies" in statements by administration officials, but that they did not amount to a cover-up.

The commission, headed by former Republican Senator John Tower, is a three-member board appointed by Mr. Reagan to study the role and operations of the National Security Council. It was appointed following disclosures that U.S. arms were sold to Iran and that proceeds were diverted to Nicaraguan rebels. The Observer said the commission in its report is "certain to be far more critical than anyone on the White House had expected."

The commission is expected to issue its report Feb. 26, and presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the White House expects to make the report public.

Raids on Peruvian colleges draw protest and condemnation

LIMA (Agencies) — Opposition and university leaders have condemned government raids on three Lima universities that left one person dead and several wounded.

Jorge Campos, rector of San Marcos, South America's oldest university, said the raids earlier this week were the most brutal carried out against universities since 1948, when Peru was ruled by a military dictatorship of President Manuel Odría.

He said students would march in protest next week. Two buses were burned at dusk in a demonstration on Saturday.

Leaders of left-wing opposition

parties said the Social Democratic government of President Alan Garcia broke the law by failing to advise university rectors of the pre-dawn raids by 4,000 police.

A statement by the national engineering university, Peru's biggest technical school, said the raids threatened Peru's democracy.

The Garcia government has justified the raids because it said there was evidence that the universities were a haven for Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas and leftist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

A few countries could strongly affect world environment

WASHINGTON (AP) — A handful of countries could play a significant role in determining the condition of the world environment, the Worldwatch Institute said in its annual study released Saturday.

The private organisation said three countries own 48 per cent of the earth's tropical forests, which are vital to preserve the world's ecological balance. At the same time, it said three countries are responsible for half the fossil fuels burned.

"For some of the major adjustments facing humanity, a relatively small number of countries hold the key to success," the study said.

The organisation's fourth annual "State of the World" said Brazil, Indonesia and Zaire forests could store enough carbon

to influence the "greenhouse effect," the warming of the earth caused by carbon dioxide and other gases from industrial activity. Forests are necessary to "recycle" carbon dioxide into oxygen, which sustains animal life.

"Unfortunately, Brazil and Indonesia are both pursuing national resettlement programmes that will reduce the remaining rain forest area, and Zaire has shown little leadership" in forest management, the report said.

The burning of fossil fuels is the source of most of the carbon dioxide. Worldwatch noted that the Soviet Union, China and the United States account for half of emissions and two-thirds of world coal reserves.

"The energy policies of these three countries really loom very large in the world's climatic fu-

ture," said Edward C. Wolf, one of the study's authors.

The industrial countries are responsible for emissions of chlorofluorocarbon chemicals that threaten the earth's ozone layer, and production curbs "should not be unmanageable," the report said.

Major producing countries are meeting under the auspices of the U.N. Environment Programme to consider an international agreement to limit chlorofluorocarbon production. Mr. Wolf said that conference appeared to be "a step ahead of other conferences."

In population growth, the report noted, India and China accounted for 35 per cent of world population increase in 1986; Nigeria and Egypt accounted for a quarter of the

births in Africa; and Mexico and Brazil had more than half of Latin American births.

Many countries are vulnerable to environmental, economic and social disaster because they cannot reduce population growth.

"The demographic middle ground has almost disappeared," said the survey, noting that no region of the world is growing at a rate between 1.0 per cent and 2.2 per cent per year.

Populations in industrialised nations are growing at less than 1.0 per cent. In the rest of the world, growth rates average 2.5 per cent per year, ranging from 2.2 per cent in South East Asia to 2.8 per cent in Africa.

"Many of the countries with rapid population growth have declining incomes, whereas almost

all those with minimal or zero population growth are experiencing income rises," the report said.

Without new land to plow, raising food production by modern seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and equipment is not easy. It thus comes as no surprise that per capita grain production is declining in some 40 developing countries.

"When this happens in an agrarian society, it is usually only a matter of time until it translates into a decline in per capita income, and into the need for food imports" and growing debt to pay for them.

The report notes that these conditions can lead to explosive social situations when the number of poor people grow faster than food production.



Snakes bring out the animal in humans

HAMMOND, Louisiana (R) — Turtles can expect courteous treatment from motorists but snakes on the road had better watch out, according to an American scientist. David Shepherd, biology professor at Southeastern Louisiana University, told reporters he had placed rubber snakes and turtles on highways in a three-year programme to study motorists' reactions. Several drivers stopped to rescue the rubber turtle, the professor said, but motorists tried to destroy the snakes with everything from shotguns to machetes. One policeman swerved his car to run over a fake snake on the side of the road before reversing to run it over again and again. He then stopped and was about to shoot the snake's head off before Shepherd emerged from nearby bushes to stop him. "The snake has always been the bad guy, all the way back to the Garden of Eden, and it doesn't appear that people are viewing it any more kindly now," Shepherd said.

Dying AIDS victim weds

NEW YORK (AP) — A man dying of AIDS and his fiancée had their Valentine's Day wish come true Saturday when they exchanged marital vows in New York City's famous St. Patrick's Cathedral. "I don't have words to say how I'm feeling," a tearful Maria Hefner said after the couple took their religious vows. They were married in a civil ceremony three years ago. David Hefner, 38, appeared pale and emaciated as he went through the ceremony. His wife, wearing a gold wedding dress with a gold bow in her hair, wiped away tears after the service before a large crowd. The couple kissed for a crowd of reporters and cameramen before climbing into a limousine outside the church and leaving. The wedding became a controversial issue when Catholic Church officials first approved then denied the couple's request for a wedding in the Manhattan cathedral. Hefner, a Protestant, described himself as a former homosexual. He was diagnosed nine months ago as having acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Mrs. Hefner, 33, is a Catholic. She has tested negative for the AIDS virus.

London broom cupboard for sale at £36,500

LONDON (R) — For sale: converted London broom cupboard overlooking exclusive Harrods department store, with radiator and folding bed. Price: £36,500. And prospective buyers have been rolling up in a city where house and flat prices have soared in recent years and are still spiralling. The sixth-floor studio apartment in an exclusive block in fashionable Knightsbridge measures 5½ feet by 11 feet (1.67 metres by 3.35 metres). A tiny tiled space off the single room houses a toilet, washbasin and shower. "It's not quite big enough to swing a cat in — half a cat maybe," said estate agent Angus Macmillan. But price is determined by location and convenience and we have had no shortage of people interested. The same money would buy three small houses in the Wolverhampton area of the industrial Midlands and leave a few thousand sterling change.

China to market anti-hijack gun

PEKING (AP) — China has developed a lightweight pistol for fighting hijackers and terrorists which uses special bullets that do not penetrate glass or airplane cabin walls, the Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. The report said the pistol, which already is being used by China's armed police, has a "powerful antipersonal capacity but it will cause no damage to aircraft." It quoted Li Weiru, director of the China Light Weapons Institute, as saying the bullets will stick to cabin walls and window glass "like a cake." The weapon weighs 380 grammes, holds six bullets, has an effective shooting range of 15 metres and is waterproof and heat-tolerant, the report said. "Li said the pistol will also make a nice gift after gold-plating and precious stones are engraved into the handle," Xinhua said. The pistols will be sold on the international market, Li added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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FIND THE FOURTH TRICK

Both vulnerable. North deals.				West's lead of the club deuce was a singleton. A careless East would win the ace and hasten to give his partner a ruff. The defenders would now be sure of three tricks, but that is all they would get. With the clubs established and trump entries to dummy, declarer would need no more than a modicum of care to make the rest of the tricks.
NORTH				Fortunately for the defense.
♠ A Q 8				East could not only count on the ace, but also on the king. If the defenders were to take a fourth trick, it would have to come from the diamond suit.
♥ 2				On the auction, it was likely that West had three trumps. Since he held the king of spades behind the ace, East reduced there was no hurry to give his partner a ruff.
♦ Q 10 4				Instead, he shifted to a diamond at trick two. Declarer rose with the ace (as the cards lie, it would not
♣ K Q J 10 8 7				
WEST				
♠ 9 6 3				
♥ J 9 7 6				
♦ K J 6 5 3				
♣ 2				
EAST				
♠ K 2				
♥ Q 10 8 5				
♦ 8 7 2				
♣ A 9 5 3				
SOUTH				
♠ J 10 7 5 4				
♥ A K 7 3				
♦ A 9				
♣ 6 4				
The bidding:				
North	East	South	West	
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	
Pass Pass				
Opening lead: Two of ♣				